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NO. 7903 SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1990/ZULQAD 30, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILS

Desperate dig for victims as thousands remain buried; Iran seeks help

Building crashed into a home killing four children. 'I was thrown several metres, I ended up by the olive trees': survivor

Iran quake toll reaches 35,000

Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel offer help; Iran accepts US aid

TEHRAN, June 22, (Agencies): Rescue workers and dazed survivors struggled today to dig thousands of dead and injured from the rubble of an earthquake believed to have killed 35,000 people in northwest Iran. A dozen towns and hundreds of villages were ruined by the shock which spread across two provinces near the Caspian Sea early yesterday.

The known dead number 28,950 but many more remain to be found. Some 100,000 people were injured and the homes of 400,000 were destroyed. The quake is the worst on record in Iran.

More shocks followed the big quake. Interior Minister Abdullah Nouri said a main road in the disaster zone, cleared yesterday, was blocked by a fresh landslide today.

Iranian television showed doctors tending victims on stretchers in a makeshift hospital in a parking lot.

Workers uncovered the bald head of a surviving man in the ruins of his home and used

Amir sends cable of condolences

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today sent a cable of condolences in his name and on behalf of the people of Kuwait to Iranian President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani and the Iranian people on the devastating earthquake which hit the northwestern region of the Iranian Islamic Republic.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to Rafsanjani on the earthquake.

a hypodermic syringe to pass water from a canteen to his mouth before digging further. In another shot, the trunk and legs of a corpse could be seen sticking out from under a huge block of concrete.



Victims of the earthquake being transferred to Tehran for medical treatment. (Reuters wirephoto)

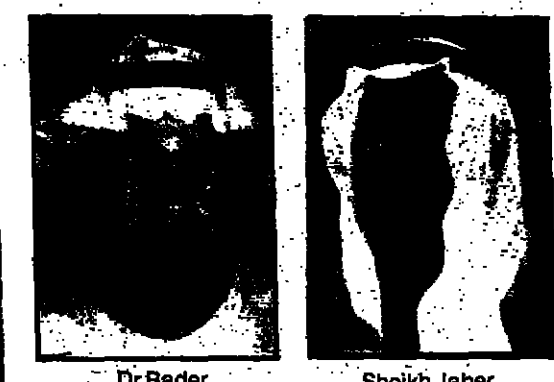
Cabinet will be sworn in today

National Council session soon

By Diana Abou Haidar and Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT'S new 22-member cabinet will be sworn in today in the presence of HH the Amir. There are 11 new faces in the cabinet, announced Wednesday by HH the Crown Prince.

The newly elected National Council, which will hold its first session shortly, will adjourn soon after electing its speaker and deputy speaker. This was disclosed by the Minister of State for National Council Affairs Dr Bader Jassem Al Yaqoub.



Dr Bader

Sheikh Jaber

Dr Bader told Arab Times that the council will be adjourned until October. He said the first council meeting will be held later this week or early next week.

Dr Bader, a legal expert, holds a Ph.D. in civil law from Cairo University. He was also a member of a special committee formed in 1981 to review constitutional amendments.

Dr Bader, who is a professor of law at Kuwait University, also won the 1988 KFAS award for excellence in social science.

(Continued on Page 11)



Daring

A masked Palestinian youth stares in the camera with a slingshot in his hands on Thursday during clashes with police in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan. Earlier in the day a group of Palestinians had attacked an Israeli ambulance with stones, smashing a window. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 14)

US using raid as a pretext

Breaking off talks

BAGHDAD, June 22, (Reuters): The United States' decision to break off talks with the PLO is pushing the Middle East towards war, the Palestine Liberation Organisation said after a 24-hour meeting in the Iraqi capital.

Condemning President George Bush for suspending 18 months of US-PLO dialogue last Wednesday, the PLO executive committee said: "The American decision is pushing the region... to a new war and an explosion on all levels."

It accused Washington of using a Palestinian commando raid on an Israeli beach on May 30 as a pretext to break the dialogue.

"The American decision to suspend the dialogue contradicts the responsible attitude a superpower like the United States must take towards the Middle East peace process and world peace in general," the PLO communiqué said.

"It was in fact, a blow to the whole peace process and to the credibility of the US administration."

Bush broke off the talks because he said the PLO had failed to condemn the raid, despite leader Yasser Arafat's promise to do so.

(Continued on Page 14)

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visited the hardest hit area, including the town of Roudbar in the Caspian province of Gilan, where at least 6,000 died.

He told reporters that Iran, fiercely proud of its self-reliance since Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution, would accept foreign help for quake victims.

Rafsanjani said "nothing worth mentioning" was left of towns and villages he saw during a helicopter flight over the quake zone. Gilan province and adjoining Zanjan have a population of about four million people.

Four of Iran's bitter enemies joined in offers to help — the United States, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. A senior US official in Washington said the American offer was accepted.

"The catastrophe is so serious ... Rafsanjani told the official news agency Irna. "International help is needed. We should accept the help that is offered."

He said the greatest need was for heavy equipment — especially cranes to lift huge pieces of rubble.

Iran told the Swiss-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that it needed medicine, tents, blankets, food, trucks, cranes and bulldozers.

It said it did not need doctors and other experts or blood supplies, sniffer dogs and used clothing.

At Manjil in Gilan province, Parvin Nemat clutched the headless body of one daughter wrapped in a blanket. Her husband and relief workers unearthed the body of another daughter, 10-year-old Fatemeh, an Iranian correspondent reported.

A man in Roudbar told Iranian television "a rock as big as a building" crashed into his home, killing four of his six children. His wife said she lay in the ruins for hours with one of the surviving children beside her.

The state-run television interviewed one middle-aged man from Roudbar, a mountain-side village in Gilan province, who said he was sleeping when the tremor struck.

"It was so strong," he said. "I was thrown several metres, I ended up by the olive trees," outside his home.

"Then a big boulder hit the house. The house collapsed. I lost all four of my children."

Masked rescuers in white aprons pulled dust-covered bodies from under concrete slabs, in scenes shown on television. Corpses were laid on blocks of ice in open trucks.

"There is not a single house in this area which has been left standing," farmer Ali Mohammadi said in Roudbar.

The UN disaster relief organisation in Geneva said it was told by the Iranian Foreign Ministry that the death toll was expected to reach 35,000.

(Continued on Page 2)



Victims of the earthquake are being evacuated from an airforce plane at Tehran airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tehran seeks medicine

Doctors, rescuers not welcomed

LONDON, June 22, (Reuters): Countries from around the world sprang to the aid of Iran's earthquake victims today setting aside past animosity and offering specialist help, emergency supplies or cash.

But Iran said through the Geneva-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that while it needed medicine and tents it would not welcome doctors and rescue workers.

It has also said it neither needed nor wanted blood supplies, sniffer dogs or used clothing.

Red Cross League Secretary-General Paer Stenback told a Geneva news conference Iran had requested antibiotics, tents

and blankets for an estimated 400,000 homeless, as well as food, transport and heavy equipment.

He said the Iranian Red Crescent Society had made clear doctors, technicians and other rescue personnel were not needed.

He recalled that unneeded material clogged the supply lines after the 1988 earthquake in Soviet Armenia. "The negative lists are just as important as the positive lists. Armenia went wrong because people sent the wrong things," he said.

Offers of help poured into Iran from all over the world. Iraq, Iran's Gulf war foe, and the United States, said they were ready to provide any aid Iran

deemed appropriate. Saudi Arabia, which cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 1988 also offered to help.

Britain set aside differences with Iran over author Salman Rushdie to promise emergency humanitarian aid.

Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said the supplies, flown by specially chartered planes, would arrive in Tehran at the weekend. "Britain is prepared to do whatever it can to provide full help to Iran for the victims of this appalling disaster," she said.

The European Economic Community said today it was dispatching \$2.4 million worth of emergency aid, doubling its earlier pledge.



Nelson Mandela shows off a traditional African robe given him after a speech in the centre of Harlem on Thursday. The rally was attended by tens of thousands of people in one of the poorest areas of New York City. (Reuters wirephoto) See story on Page 9



Two 16-year-old Liberian girls pose on either side of a scarecrow made from a dead government soldier's skull wearing a helmet in a village in the jungle north of Buchanan. The girls are painted white as they undergo a day-long initiation rite for their passage into womanhood. After paint is washed off the girls are then able to marry. (Reuters wirephoto) See story on Page 7

62 hacked to death in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, June 22, (AP): Tamil separatist guerrillas hacked to death 62 Muslim men, women and children in eastern Sri Lanka today after accusing them of being government informants, the Defence Ministry and an opposition Muslim leader said.

The massacre at Nintaver village came on the 11th day of war between Tamil guerrillas and Sri Lanka forces for control of the northeast.

In the north, rebel forces overran one army base and pounded four other strategic installations. Ethnic strife between Tamils and Sinhalese spread to the south and central parts of this island nation. Military officials announced that at least 139 more people died in fighting that has already left more than 1,400 dead since June 11.

The government said more than 210,000 people were fleeing the fighting, seeking shelter in schools, temples, churches and mosques throughout the country.

Troops found the bodies of Muslim men, women and children in Nintaver village, a Defence Ministry statement said. Many corpses were floating inside drinking water wells, it said.

Military officials said rebels used knives to kill the villagers so they wouldn't alert security forces nearby.

Survivors said the Tigers raided the village early today to kill the Muslims because they feared the residents would reveal their jungle hideaway, according to Mahroof Gani of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, an opposition party.

"It was a slaughter of innocent Muslim men, women and children," he said, calling the Tigers "bloodthirsty criminals cloaking themselves as liberation fighters."

He said after killing villagers, the rebels set fire to a mosque, looted and burned down the village's 150 houses and left placards written in red paint warning Muslims not to work for the government.

Muslims make up seven per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent and Tamils, who are fighting the separatist battle, constitute 18 per cent.

(Continued on Page 2)

Pakistani minister killed

Unidentified gunmen killed three people, including a Pakistani provincial minister, at a mosque during Friday prayers.

Minister without portfolio Malik Haji Eid Muhammad Notezai was entering the mosque near his home in Baluchistan capital, Quetta, when four gunmen opened fire, police said.

The other two people killed were hit by stray bullets. At least three people were injured (Reuters)

Ban on housemaids for Kuwait

A ban was imposed with immediate effect by the Sri Lankan government on women going to work as housemaids in Kuwait. Labour Ministry officials said on Thursday.

Allegedly out of 90,000 Sri Lankan women in Kuwait, an estimated 30,000 remain jobless.

One ministry official said "it is an absolutely shocking situation" as the majority of these women are recruited by illegal job agencies run by foreign nationals. (Kuna)

Polozkov, Lobov win leadership

Conservative Ivan Polozkov and moderate Oleg Lobov emerged from a field of seven candidates to win the first round of voting yesterday for the leadership of the new Russian Communist Party.

Polozkov won 1,017 votes in a secret ballot at the party's founding Congress while Lobov received 848. It was announced at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre in Moscow.

Earlier report Page 9

Egypt's soccer fan suicides

A 40-year-old Egyptian hanged himself over Egypt's elimination from the World Cup finals in a 1-0 loss to England on Thursday, police said.

"My life came to an end when Egypt's match with England ended," said a suicide note found by his body.

Police said yesterday that Sayed Abdel-Al, a government employee said to have been suffering depression, was found dead in his flat where he lived alone in the Mediterranean city of Damietta. (Reuters)

Imelda will be tried in Philippines

President Corason Aquino said yesterday that former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos will be tried "at the proper time" in the Philippines for crimes she allegedly committed in the country.

Police free suspects

South African police freed yesterday 11 whites detained following allegations of a plot to kill black leader Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk and said the investigation was making little progress.

See also Page 9



Two cadres of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, stand guard at their area headquarters in Pulaveli, Sri Lanka.

Lanka

(Continued from Page 1)

The Defence Ministry statement said Nintavan village was hit by fleeing Tamil rebels who lost at least 100 of their fighters during a firefight with government troops at Karativu village, a rebel stronghold, five kilometres (three miles) north of Nintavan.

It said the fleeing rebels included large numbers of women and young boys in camouflage uniforms.

Residents in Batticaloa town, the capital of the district, said earlier today that they believed the Nintavan killings were done by government soldiers.

But Gani denied that, saying, "we are certain the massacre was done by Tamil Tigers who are running berserk."

In the north, government helicopter gunships broke through a rebel siege for the first time in 11 days, dropping tons of food and medicine to troops trapped in a strategic fort.

Tamil Tiger forces seized control of an army camp in Koodachi village in northwest Sri Lanka, forcing 23 soldiers to flee, a military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Six soldiers were feared dead.

The Defence Ministry said it also lost contact with another army camp at Silvanthi, near Kumbachi.

In Jaffna, a highly populated northern town, rebel assaults concentrated on a 16th-century Dutch fort, planning down 150 government defenders.

The other garrisons under attack in Jaffna today were the Palali military airfield and the two naval establishments at Karainagar and Kankesanthurai, north of Jaffna city.

Government defenders in all four garrisons used rockets, mortars, artillery and heavy-calibre machine guns against the rebels' heavy fire.

Kashmir rebels stage daring escape

SRINAGAR, June 22, (UPI): Two Muslim rebels arrested by paramilitary police staged a daring escape from their captors today as they were being driven to jail, using karate to disarm their guards and then fleeing with an apparent civilian informer, witnesses said.

The incident came amid continuing violence in the Kashmir valley of north-

ern India, where Muslim rebels are waging a struggle to gain independence for Jammu and Kashmir state. At least four people were killed in violence today.

One of the people, a government employee, was gunned down at his home in the heart of the city, apparently by Muslim rebels, police sources said. He was shot three times in the head and

chest, the sources said.

Muslim rebels say they want an independent state because Kashmiris have been systematically denied equal access to government jobs, higher education and economic development grants by the central government in New Delhi.

Two militants belonging to the

Kashmir Students Liberation Front staged a daring escape today shortly after they were arrested by the paramilitary Central Reserve Police force on the northern outskirts of the city, witnesses said.

Police were taking the two away from the site of the arrest in a jeep when other rebels opened fire with automatic rifles. The police jeep crashed and one of the

arrested rebels, whose nickname is Bita Karate, used martial arts to disarm their guards, the witnesses said.

Bita Karate and his companion, Ghulam Haissan, fled the scene with a civilian, who apparently had tipped the authorities to their whereabouts, they said.

Following the incident about 200

people gathered in the streets chanting "freedom" and "long live our struggles". The group held a traditional celebration of joy in the streets, cooking "leher" - a mutton and rice mixture seasoned with turmeric - and distributing it to passersby.

A curfew continued on the old city of Srinagar today for the fourth consecutive day.

Earthquake

(Continued from Page 1)

to reach 35,000 when all bodies have been recovered.

The official news agency Irna reported that the known dead numbered 28,950 at 4 pm today (1230 GMT).

It said 25,241 bodies had been counted in Gilan province, on the Caspian Sea, and 3,709 in Zanjan province. A total of 28,950 people were injured in the two provinces, Irna said.

Television showed villagers looking at houses turned into heaps of mud bricks and wooden beams by the quake, which measured 7.3 on the Richter scale.

Hospitals overflowed with victims. Tehran Radio said some of the injured were flown 1,000 km (600 miles) from the disaster zone for treatment.

Tehran airport was thronged with people trying to reach the quake zone to learn the fate of relatives. Officials turned them back, saying the planes were needed for relief workers.

A French government plane carrying 205 rescue workers, 18 sniffer dogs and 25 tonnes of aid was heading for Iran, although the Iranian Red Crescent said experts were not needed.

A 17-member British team set out with ultra-sound listening devices and thermal cameras which can sense body heat beneath ruins. A planeload of doctors, rescue workers and aid was on its way from the Soviet Union.

In Rasht, 240 km (150 miles) northwest of Tehran, cranes and other heavy machinery eased concrete slabs from the debris of a three-storey building collapsed.

Television showed dozens of people helping with shovels or bare hands. Rasht's main telephone exchange, an eight-storey building, was completely destroyed.

In Gilan, damage and casualties were reported in coastal towns all the way to Astara on the border of Soviet Azerbaijan and Alborz mountains inland.

Zanjan Governor Jaffar Mousavi said relief teams were helping survivors bury the dead but most of the 180 worst-hit villages were "in mountainous areas, which hampers the relief operation."



Rescue workers try to dig people out from the wreckage of the earthquake-damaged area of Zanjan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sidelights

Killer earthquake: Iranian news media reacted with little emotion on Thursday to a killer earthquake.

The country has endured several massive tragedies in recent years. An estimated one million Iranians were killed or wounded in the eight-year war with Iraq that ended in 1988. And the Islamic revolution that in 1979 toppled the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi cost hundreds of thousands of lives.

Moreover, devastating quakes are not new to the country. About 25,000 people died in eastern Iran in a 1978 earthquake. Roughly the same number died in a December 1988 quake in nearby Soviet Armenia. (AP)

Tottering agriculture: The earthquake which has killed tens of thousands of Iranians has also ravaged a major farming area and could present Tehran with a huge bill for food imports.

Iran is already spending about three billion dollars a year on food imports, more than 20 per cent of its hard currency earnings, according to a Western expert in Tehran.

Economists were unwilling to guess at the damage to Iranian agriculture in the confusion following on Thursday's earthquake but said they feared it would be serious.

The two worst-hit provinces of Gilan, on the Caspian sea coast, and Zanjan to the south, are important

fruit, rice, and wheat-growing areas.

Helicopter pilots over Gilan reported total devastation. With thousands of labourers among the casualties, irrigation systems damaged and produce spoiled in some districts, the omens for the Iranian economy looked bad.

Damage to paddy fields would be especially serious, economists said, because much of last year's rice crop was destroyed by another natural disaster, floods.

Economists said Tehran would probably have to import emergency supplies of food. (Reuters)

Most fertile, prosperous: The region of northwest Iran devastated by an earthquake on Thursday contains some of the country's most fertile land, prosperous villages and scenic mountains.

Official media said the quake killed more than 1,900 people in Gilan and Zanjan provinces, where an estimated four million people live in a combined area of 50,000 square km (20,000 square miles).

Gilan, hugging the Caspian coast from the border with Soviet Azerbaijan to the beach resorts north of Tehran, is the province with the most rainfall (primarily in winter).

Rice paddies dot the narrow plain from the sea to the Alborz mountains, where scenic villages are tucked away in Iran's thickest forests.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in a message to Rafsanjani: "I convey ... my sincerest condolences and declare that we are ready to provide any assistance you may require."

King Hussein of Jordan sent a letter expressing "pain and sorrow for the tragic results of

the earthquake." Other Arab countries, including neighbouring Gulf nations, sent condolences.

In Washington, the White House also sent a message of condolences and expressed willingness to provide human-

itarian assistance, even though the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Iran.

Families, including women in head-to-toe black chadors, flooded donation centres in Tehran and handed over fistfuls of cash to rescue committees.

Mansion blaze: Fire Friday destroyed the eastern wing of a 12 million pounds mansion owned by the former UAE ambassador in London, Mohammed Mahdi Al Tajir.

100 firemen were battling to control the blaze at the 18th century house in Buckinghamshire, near London four hours after it broke out.

In January armed robbers broke into the mansion and stole treasures worth five million pounds. The exact damage to the house and its contents could not be calculated immediately.

Fire investigation officers were standing by to inspect the scene, but police said there was nothing initially to suggest arson. The fire brigade said there was extensive damage, but no-one was injured. (KUNA)

Australians arrested: Two Australians have been arrested in connection with the stabbing death of a young British tourist outside a bar in Rhodes, a popular resort in Greece, police said Friday.

A police spokesman identified the two suspects as Andrea Vaccaro, 21, a construction worker of Italian origin, and Michael Tsipolis, 19, an electrician of Greek origin, both of Sydney.

They were arrested in connection with the death of William Paul Perrie, 23, of Manchester, who was stabbed in the chest early Thursday and died on the way to the hospital. His companion, Sharon Ann Dunn, 26, also from Manchester, was slightly injured when stabbed in the left wrist. (AP)

Ukrainian kindergarten attacked: A man armed with a hatchet broke into a Ukrainian kindergarten and began swinging wildly at the children, injuring 10 of them, the Soviet news agency Interfax said on Thursday.

An employee at the kindergarten in the city of Kharkov confirmed the attack had taken place on Wednesday and said six children were in hospital. Four had undergone operations but none was in danger, she said by telephone. (Reuters)

Mission to Mars: President George Bush lashed out Wednesday at Congressional critics of sending Americans to Mars, likening them to the "naysayers" of Christopher Columbus.

Touring NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre, he criticised the House of Representatives' appropriations subcommittee for voting last week "to pull the plug on this historic undertaking" by axing 300 million dollars Bush had requested for the project.

Bush wants to return Americans to the moon and to land a manned space flight on Mars within 30 years.

The President said American schoolchildren reading about Columbus' doubters "shook their heads in disbelief that these naysayers could have been so shortsighted." (AP)

Lion-headed monkey found: A previously unknown monkey species with a lion's head and a striking gold-and-black coat has been found in one of SE Asia's most-remote regions, researchers said Wednesday.

"It's quite remarkable, because it's almost like finding something in the suburbs of Los Angeles," said Russell Mittermeier, president of Conservation International in Washington.

The black-faced lion tamarin, as the new monkey is called, is a golden squirrel-size monkey with black face, forearms and tail.

The discovery "is biologically important and an important conservation challenge as well," said Benjamin Beck, associate director of the National Zoo in Washington. Further studies of the animals habitat and their relation to other lion tamarins should be conducted soon, he said. (AP)

Albanians block autonomy move: Ethnic Albanians from Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province have blocked constitutional changes aimed at reducing their autonomy.

In a stormy session on Thursday, Albanians in the Kosovo parliamentary assembly refused to debate proposals to reduce the region's autonomy in favour of the Republic of Serbia, of which it is a part.

Instead, they proposed a new Kosovo constitution which would give the region full autonomy from Serbia, news media reported on Friday.

Kosovo, inhabited by 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Serbs, has for decades been torn by friction between the two groups, divided by language tradition and religion. (Reuters)

Socialist label dropped: The Presidency of Croatia, Yugoslavia's second largest republic, has endorsed a proposal to remove communist insignia from the state's name and emblems, the Zagreb daily Vjesnik reported Thursday.

The proposal, expected to be adopted by the republic's parliament, would drop the label "socialist" from the name, leaving it simply the Republic of Croatia.

Slovenia is the only other of Yugoslavia's six republics to have changed its name and dropped socialist insignia.

Both Slovenia and Croatia have already had multi-party elections in which non-communists won a majority. Franjo Tudjman, whose conservative Croatian Democratic Union won a sweeping victory, became head of Croatia's collective presidency. (AP)

Soviets pull out nuclear arms: The Soviet Union is withdrawing some nuclear weapons from the Baltic republic, Transcaucasia and Eastern Europe because of concern over internal unrest and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, NATO sources said on Friday.

Security has been sharply increased at all Soviet bases with nuclear weapons, they added, citing US and West German intelligence reports.

"They are worried that these weapons might fall into the wrong hands and they want to be very sure that it doesn't happen," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

Moscow had moved the weapons, thought to be short-range missiles and some nuclear artillery shells, back to the Russian republic - close to central control. (Reuters)

Self-immolation: An unemployed man with a history of mental disorder set himself on fire Thursday after reading a statement to protesters alleging fraud in last week's elections in Bulgaria, the BTA news agency said.

The 32-year-old man, whose name was not released, was rushed to a hospital after the attempted self-immolation in Stara Zagora, some 250 kilometres (156 miles) east of Sofia, the official news agency said. His condition was not disclosed.

State radio earlier identified the man as a student. But BTA said he had three criminal convictions, including one for rape and was under psychiatric supervision because he had previously tried three times to commit suicide. (AP)



Giant faces hunger

The tallest man in Bangladesh, a 2.5-metre (eight-foot-three-inch) giant who finds food too distasteful to eat, is seen with his family.

"I am hungry but cannot eat food out of distaste. This has robbed me of all bodily strength," said the 28-year-old Parimal Chandra Barman as he struggled to his feet to speak to reporters in his home on the outskirts of Dhaka.

"I don't want to die or become taller. Please, help me," said Barman, the youngest of six children in a fishing family.

Barman is still growing, his father, Arjun Chandra, said. "We are scared for his life."

Barman was a normal boy until 1973 when he suddenly began to grow very fast, his father said.

"Now he is unable to walk or even stand up alone. His height is still increasing, though very slowly," Chandra said, adding that he is too poor to take his son to specialists or to buy medicine.



Black fever

A fever that turns its victims black has killed about 120 people and stricken another 15,000 in northern Bangladesh over the past four months, officials and news reports say.

Kalazar, or black fever, is carried by sand flies which inhabit the river-crossed plains of northern Bangladesh.

Health Ministry officials said Friday they have reports of at least 60 deaths from the disease in the northern districts of Rangpur and Kurigram. United News of Bangladesh reported on June 11 that black fever has killed 60 people and affected 15,000 others in Bogra district, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Dhaka.

Dr Mahbubur Rahman, a radiologist at Dhaka Medical College, said the disease, caused by a virus borne by the flies, first causes a mild temperature and stomach pain. Then, if untreated, it attacks the liver, turning the victim black.

"Many patients recover, but poor and malnourished people finally die," he said.

\$4.5m demanded

Zardari seeks damages

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 22, (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has demanded an apology and millions of dollars in damages from 29 Pakistani politicians and editors for accusing him of corruption, his lawyers has said.

Damages for 100 million rupees (\$4.5 million) in damages had been sent to 19 opposition politicians and 10 newspaper and magazine editors, lawyer Abdul Mujeeb Pirzada said.

He said they would be sued if they did not comply with the demand within a week.

Speakers at an opposition convention last month accused Bhutto's government of rampant corruption and called for his resignation. Charges were levelled against government officials and against Zardari and his father Hakim Ali, who heads a parliamentary public accounts committee.

Soviet oil field fire: A huge fire started by lightning and fed by driving winds in raging through a complex of oil storage tanks in the Soviet Union's key Tyumen oil field in western Siberia, Tass news agency said on Thursday.

Tass said 160 firemen had been airlifted to the Karkateyev oil station, 20 km (12 miles) from Nefteyugansk, and a train with tonnes of foaming agent was heading for the area.

The fire started after a lightning bolt set a storage tank with 5,000 tonnes of oil alight. Three more tanks quickly exploded and the fire spread. (Reuters)

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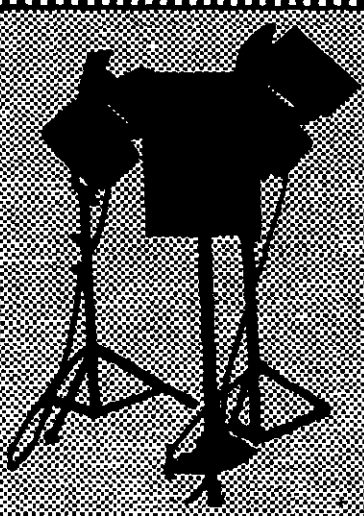
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LANCET

AMESBURY, England: Hundreds of police, using tracker dogs and search helicopters, ringed Britain's Stonehenge Monument at dawn on Thursday to stop hippies celebrating the longest day at the prehistoric site.

Police said few hippies turned up for a mid-summer solstice pilgrimage to Stonehenge marked in past years by violence and mass arrests when revelers tried to break through police lines to reach the ancient circle of stones.

Police chief Allen Elliot told a dawn news conference that around 20 people had been arrested for drugs offences or for trying to enter a four-mile (six km) "exclusion zone" around the huge stones in southwest England.

"Our aim was to prevent violence and the strategy we have adopted has been very successful," he said. (Reuters)

POWEY, England: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher unexpectedly called to the aid of a sinking sloop called *Silphol* in the Channel on Wednesday during an inspection of sea rescue services.

Wearing a life jacket and handkerchief, Thatcher plunged through the waves in a 44-foot (13-metre) lifeboat. It had received an emergency call as she was about to disembark after watching an air-sea rescue demonstration.

"There was a yacht in trouble with a loose keel, so we went out to see if it was all right," she told reporters.

The rescue vessel took nine minutes to reach the yacht, which was taking on water, and deliver a bilge pump.

Thatcher described the experience as "absolutely marvellous." (Reuters)

6 months Living with mom's corpse

CHEEKTOGAWA, New York, June 22, (AP): He lived with his mother's corpse for more than six months, but the son of an elderly woman refused to believe she was dead, police said.

The body of Florence V. Kowalewski, 77, was found seated in a chair Wednesday in the house where she had lived with her 47-year-old son, police Lt. Thomas Rowan said.

"He was at home with his mother and denied she was dead when police told him," Rowan said. "She had been dead for more than six months and under a year."

LUXEMBOURG: Playboys will soon have the same right as ordinary working people to live where they want in the European Economic Community.

Gainfully employed citizens of the 12-nation bloc already have the right to live and work anywhere they fancy within the community.

Under the Playboys directive agreed by EEC ministers on Wednesday people who just want to study, retire or live a life of luxury abroad will get the same right from the end of June 1992 provided they can prove they have the money to support themselves.

LONDON: The popular notion that dogs are "man's best friend" has been challenged by a new survey, showing that one third of British children have been attacked by the animals.

The survey of over 7,500 children showed that 10 per cent of those bitten by dogs had been scarred by the attack, but only one in ten of the children said they had reported the incident to the police.

In 1988, there were 7.3 million dogs kept as household pets in the UK, and fears about the safety of these animals were heightened last year when an 11-year-old girl was savaged to death while walking a friend's family pet. (Kuna)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida: A circus animal handler was crushed Wednesday by a 6,500-pound (3.25 ton) circus elephant apparently spooked by a passing automobile, authorities said.

The handler, identified by thunderbird swap shop officials as David Dickerson, 27, was taken by helicopter to Broward General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Dickerson died of a "severe crush injury to the chest," hospital spokesman Craig Biles said.

Dickerson, who had been a handler for the Hensford Family Circus of Sarasota, Florida, for four years, was moving three rare female Asian elephants from a tent to a performance arena at a flea market grounds, the Thunderbird Swap Shop, when the accident occurred, said George Croft, spokesman for the Broadway County sheriff's office.

"An auto moving through the swap shop grounds apparently either squealed the brakes or hit the horn, startling the elephants," Croft said. "They turned abruptly in something of a panic, and the handler was kicked or possibly sat upon by one of the elephants." (UPI)

ATHENS: A donkey killed its master in a Kurdish village in northwestern Iran when it grabbed him by throat and held on until he died, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

Wednesday, Farn workers then clobbered the animal to death. In a dispatch from Mahabad, some 325 miles (560 km) northwest of Tehran, IRNA said the incident occurred "when Bekir Khosravi, 45, working on his farm, tried to separate his donkey from its mate in order to load some burden upon it."

The dispatch, monitored in Athens, said: "The disturbed beast savagely went for the throat of its master and held on to it until the farmer died." The incident occurred in Owj-Teppeh, a village in the Kurdish area near Mahabad. (UPI)



A Swedish fan is screaming to support his team before the start of the soccer match between Sweden and Costa Rica in Genoa June 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

Conjugal therapy

Players rewarded

NEMI, Italy, June 22, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's players got what their trainer called "conjugal therapy" with their wives on Tuesday and Wednesday as a reward for getting through the first round of the World Cup.

The innovation, warmly welcomed by the players, was another product of the end of communism in Czechoslovakia. It was the first time such a reunion had been held during the team's training camps for international competition.

The players were reunited with their wives immediately after Czechoslovakia were beaten 2-0 by Italy in Rome's Olympic stadium on Tuesday night and stayed with them in their training camp outside the city until Wednesday afternoon.

Trainer Jozef Venglos defended his move against hostile questioning by Czechoslovak journalists at the training camp at Nemi, in the Alban Hills near Rome.

"This is an important moment of relaxation for us. The boys got a chance to rest and unload the tension of the last few days," he said.

HONG KONG: Bathing will never be the same for two residents of Hong Kong's crowded Kowloon district.

Chen King, 60, was taking in her laundry on Wednesday when she lost her balance and tumbled out of a third floor window.

A window ledge on the second floor broke her fall but catapulted her through an open window into the bathroom of the flat below,

much to the surprise of an elderly woman taking her bath, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

Alerted by screams of terror, the 38-year-old daughter of the woman in the bath burst in to discover a shaken but unharmed Chan brushing herself off. (Reuters)

Kids take over UK pop 'Step by Step'

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): New Kids on the Block took over the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States on Wednesday with their big hit "Step by Step."

The Top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.

1. (6) Step by Step — New Kids on the Block
2. (4) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI)
3. (2) Poison — BBD (MCA)
4. (5) You Can't Touch This — MC Hammer (Columbia)
5. (1) Hold On — Wilson Phillips (SDE)
6. (9) Ready or Not — After Seven (Virgin)
7. (3) Vogue — Madonna (Sire-Warner Brothers)
8. (11) Do You Remember — Phil Collins (Atlantic)
9. (12) Hold On — En Vogue (Atlantic)
10. (7) All I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol)

The Top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.

1. (2) Walk On — Reba McEntire (MCA)
2. (3) He Walked on Water — Randy Travis (Warner Bros.)
3. (6) The Dance — Garth Brooks (Capitol)
4. (8) On Down the Line — Patty Loveless (MCA)
5. (5) She Came from Fort Worth — Kathy Mattea (Mercury)
6. (7) Dancin's Dream — Restless Heart (RCA)
7. (10) Island — Eddie Raven (Capitol)
8. (9) Hummingbird — Ricky Skaggs (Epic)
9. (11) Nobody's Talking — Exile (Arista)
10. (12) Good Friends, Good Whiskey, Good Loving — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Bros.)

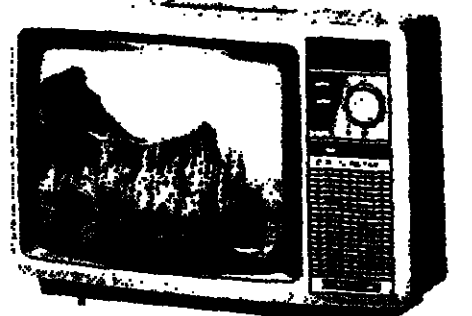
This week's Top 10 singles, as listed by our Price Music List with last week's places in parentheses.

1. (1) World in Motion — England-New Order (Factory-MCA)
2. (5) Sacrifice-Healing Hands — Elton John (Rocket-Phonogram)
3. (16) Nessun Dorma — Luciano Pavarotti (Decca-Polygram)
4. (7) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI)
5. (2) Hear the Drummer (Get Wicked) — Chad Jackson (Big Wave)
6. (6) The Only One I Know — Charlatans (Situation Two)
7. (3) Step by Step — New Kids on the Block (CBS)
8. (4) Killer — Adamski (MCA)
9. (18) Ooops Up — Snap (Arista-BMG)
10. (9) Doin' the Do — Betty Boo (Rhythm King)

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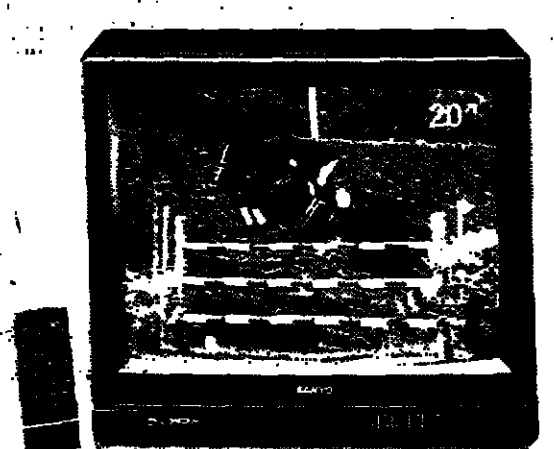


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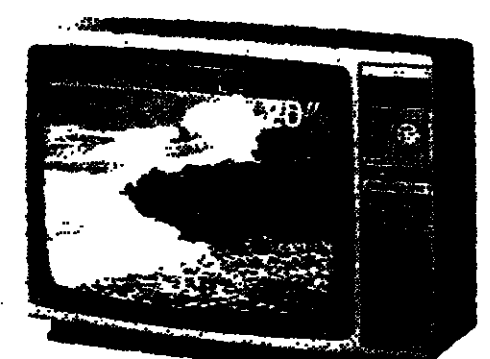
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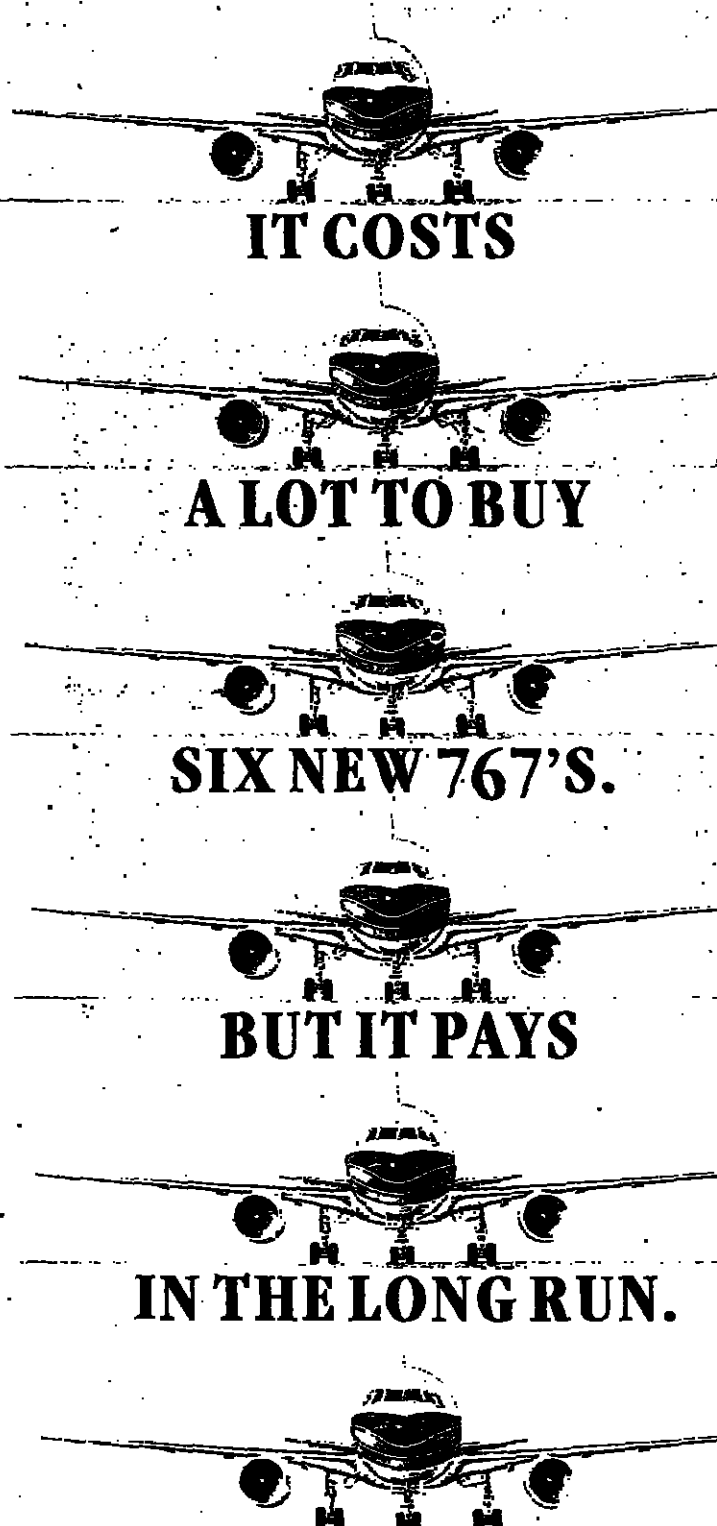
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\$6 million in Noriega assets to be freed

MIAMI, June 22. (AP): Federal prosecutors agreed Wednesday to release up to \$6 million from Manuel Noriega's European bank accounts, saying they wanted to move quickly with the drug trafficking case against the former Panamanian leader.

Meanwhile, Panama's new government told the court it will file a \$5.3 billion lawsuit against Noriega, accusing him of racketeering, including murder, theft and fraud against the Panamanian people.

Noriega, who surrendered to US troops Jan 4, is being held in a jail outside Miami on an indictment accusing him of taking \$4.6 million in bribes from Colombia's Medellin drug cartel to turn Panama into a way station for cocaine trafficking. Trial is set to begin Jan 28.

Assistant US attorney Michael Sullivan said the agreement to unfreeze \$4.5 million to \$6 million in assets solves a legal battle that began April 23, when defence attorneys threatened to withdraw from the case. They had said the government's seizure of \$20 million of Noriega's assets deprived them of fees and expenses.

Lead defence attorney Frank Rubino said his team of five attorneys was satisfied with the agreement. "We feel we now will have the ability to go forward and give Gen. Noriega the defence he deserves."

US attorney Dexter Lehtinen said the deal will allow prosecutors "to focus on the true issues in the criminal case."

Rubino had vowed to fight a protracted legal battle to release and make public payments made by the CIA and other intelligence agencies to the former Panamanian leader. The defence has said the payments added up to \$11 million, but the government claimed the amount was much lower.

US district judge William Hoeveler, who had warned prosecutors the government would have to justify its seizures unless it released funds for Noriega's defence, said he approved the deal.

15-year-old held in Rio

Robberies

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 22. (Reuters): A 15-year-old boy was arrested and charged with leading 10 bank robberies, police said.

"He...without doubt is the leader of one of the biggest (bank robbery) gangs in the city," deputy police chief Helio Vigi told reporters.

The boy, known as "Baldaracci," told police that he had been involved in five bank robberies. He also admitted to being a habitual drug user.

Baldaracci was arrested in the house he bought for his mother. Police also found a 38-calibre revolver and 40,000 cruzeiros (\$300) hidden among the plants.



Haoi

Chief Bill Traverse from the Jackhead Reserve in Manitoba waves an eagle feather as part of a native anti-Meech rally in which 5,000 people attended June 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

On the brink of death

Meech Lake agreement

MONTREAL, June 22. (AP): A constitutional agreement aimed at keeping French-speaking Quebec in the Canadian federation is on the brink of death, blocked in two provinces as the deadline for passage approached.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney yesterday flew to St John's Newfoundland, one of the holdouts, in an effort to save the agreement, which must be ratified by all provinces by midnight tomorrow or expire. He warned that sinking the accord could prompt another referendum in Quebec — this time by the separatists.

Troubles loomed too in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where a legislator has managed to block debate for a week on the agreement.

Eight of the provinces favour the Meech Lake Accord, as it is called, and Mulroney is one of the most ardent supporters of the agreement.

In a restrained but tough address, Mulroney confronted Newfoundland's 52-seat legislature with the possibility of constitutional paralysis, economic problems and increased support for the separatist cause.

"On that night, when you're sitting there with your family and your children, one thought is going through your mind: Do you mean to tell me that we could have avoided all of this for Meech Lake?" Mulroney said.

"If that night were ever to come, the terms of Meech Lake

are going to look very, very reasonable indeed to every member of this House of Assembly and every House of Assembly across Canada."

One hour after Mulroney concluded his address, a bomb threat forced a 45-minute evacuation of the legislature.

The five-point agreement would designate Quebec a "distinct society," something the Supreme Court would be obliged to consider when looking at specific laws challenged under the constitution.

The Meech Lake agreement, first approved by the prime minister and the premiers of the provinces in 1987, is aimed at winning Quebec's signature of Canada's 1982 constitution. At that time, the ministers set a three-year deadline for approval by the Parliament and legislatures.

In the interim, governments changed in three of the provinces — Manitoba, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick — and the premiers reneged on the signatures of their predecessors.

In early June, Mulroney called the premiers to Ottawa where they spent a week in intense private meetings. They agreed to pass the original accord as it is.

New Brunswick passed it last week. Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells put the agreement up for a vote in his legislature, where it is still being debated.

The biggest challenge has

come from Manitoba. Legislator Elijah Harper, who as a Cree is the only Indian in the provincial legislature, has said he will kill Meech Lake because it does not take native rights into consideration.

Many of the Indians and Inuit leaders of Canada believe their societies are as distinct as Quebec's, and they also want to be recognised in the constitution.

Manitoba law requires public hearings before a vote on constitutional amendments, and procedural delays introduced by Harper have pushed debate back so far that it may be impossible to pass the measure before the deadline.

For many Quebecois in Montreal, Canada's second-largest city, the arguments have worn thin and the endless debate over a document thought signed and sealed in 1987 has led to widespread cynicism and a rise in nationalist feelings.

A poll published yesterday in the French-language newspaper La Presse indicated that 57 per cent of Quebecois favour sovereignty, up slightly from 56 per cent in March.

But, unlike a decade ago when a referendum was held by the Separatist Parti Quebecois to determine the future of the province, passion is missing.

"I think people have accepted that it (Meech Lake) won't pass with a shrug," said Robert Gagnon, a computer systems specialist for a Montreal insurance company.

WASHINGTON, June 22. (AP): The Supreme Court dealt a devastating blow to political patronage yesterday, ruling that government employers generally may not base hiring, transfer and promotion decisions on someone's party affiliation.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices said refusing to hire, transfer or promote people for politically partisan reasons in most cases violates their constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and association.

The court said partisanship may play a role in such employment decisions only when political affiliation is an appropriate requirement for carrying out a job, such as a high-level policy adviser.

"Unless these patronage practices are narrowly tailored to further vital government interests, we must conclude that they impermissibly encroach on First Amendment freedoms," Justice William J. Brennan wrote for the court.

The decision reinstates a lawsuit by three Illinois residents against Gov. James Thompson and Republican leaders in the state. Its sweeping prohibitions apply as well to federal and local government employers.

In a landmark 1976 ruling and a 1980 sequel, the high court significantly weakened the political patronage system, sometimes called the "spoils system."

The rulings prohibited government

employers from firing anyone — even some policy-making and confidential government workers — solely because of their political party unless party loyalty is a requirement for effective performance.

But those decisions dealt only with firings. Before yesterday the court never had said partisanship can play no role in hiring, transfers and promotions as well.

The court also struck down patronage powers of government employers in laying off and rehiring public employees.

A federal appeals court had upheld the Illinois patronage policy in hiring, transfers and promotions but banned such considerations in layoffs and rehiring.

INS can detain children: US court

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22. (UPI): A bitterly divided federal appeals court ruled that immigration officials may jail indefinitely children facing deportation, even though alien adults are routinely freed on bail.

Children accused of illegal entry into the US have no constitutional right to be released on bail to a relative or guardian other than a parent, the three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said Wednesday.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service may detain children under age 18 if the INS has a reasonable basis to hold them pending deportation hearings, the appeals ruled in a split 2-1 decision in a class-action suit filed by the National Centre for Immigrants' Rights in 1985 against the INS practice.

The court also ruled that US district court Judge Robert Keller in Los Angeles was too lenient in his interpretation of an undocumented child's right to a speedy hearing before an impartial judge.

Appeal judge J. Clifford Wallace said the constitution's due process protection is not violated if the INS refuses to release a child to an unrelated adult pending the child's deportation hearing.

Judge Betty Fletcher vigorously dissented in the case, which she called among the most disturbing that she has confronted since joining the appeals court 11 years ago. "The majority goes to great lengths to deny liberty to children whose only possible offence is their alienage," she wrote.

Immigrants' and children's rights groups have denounced the 5-year-old INS policy of detaining children, calling it a ploy to use children as "bait" to capture their parents who are suspected illegal aliens.

"The decision will allow children to languish in prison conditions for months or longer," said James Morales, a lawyer for the National Centre for Youth Law. He said the decision falls hardest on children with no parents available to step forward.

In arguments before the appeals court, the INS maintained that its policy was implemented to protect the children and ensure their appearance for deportation hearings. But lawyers who filed the 1985 class action suit accused the INS of arresting parents on suspicion of illegal entry into the US as soon as they showed up to claim their children.

The lawsuit also challenged the conditions under which children were held. Carlos Holguin, a lawyer for the National Centre for Immigrants' Rights, said, "The freedom of the children now is dependent on the willingness of their parents to come forward and face deportation."

Holguin said he will ask all 27 judges on the appeals court to reconsider Wednesday's ruling, and failing that he will appeal the case to the US Supreme Court.

"These are not murderers or robbers, yet they are treated the same as if they were," Holguin said.

Kelleher, the US district judge whose ruling was overturned, had ordered the INS in 1987 to end its practice of permitting the release of alien children only to their parents. He said these children must be released to a wider circle of appropriate adults, including uncles, aunts, grandparents and guardians.

Speaking at a press conference in the presidential palace, Aylwin said he and his defence minister asked top military authorities for any information on other hidden graves.

"The answer I received is that there is willingness to co-operate on the matter, but that the high commands don't know where these places really are," he said.

Among the missing were more than 100 people summarily executed by special military-led tribunals after the coup, according to human rights organisations.

narco-terrorism," Fujimori said.

Fujimori, speaking to foreign reporters, also said he plans to renew Peru's contacts with the International Monetary Fund. He said there is a "consensus in the country" in favour of restoring the ties, broken off by outgoing President Alan Garcia.

The Upper Hualaga is the world's main source of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine. At least a thousand Maoist Shining Path guerrillas are believed to operate in the valley, located on the jungle-covered eastern

Lookout book details emerge

List shows 353,324 entries

NEW YORK, June 22. (AP): The US government's list of foreigners barred from the country for political reasons may have many been longer than previously thought, according to newly released documents.

Details of the so-called "Lookout book" emerged for the first time in a lawsuit brought by a Colombian journalist who was rebuffed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport four years ago.

The list was previously estimated by immigration lawyers to have some 40,000 names. But the list released Thursday, which does not include names, shows 353,324 entries from 146 countries, territories and other areas. More than two-thirds of the entries appear to come after 1980, a year before Ronald Reagan became president.

Because some names were entered more than once and entries rarely are removed, the exact number of individuals cannot be immediately determined, government officials said.



Little Richard honoured

Rock originator Little Richard flashes a peace sign after being honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame June 21. The creator of the rock classics "Good Jolly Miss Molly" and "Lucille" became the 1,915th person to receive the honour. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chile Army denies knowledge

Missing victims

SANTIAGO, June 22. (AP): President Patricio Aylwin said yesterday the country's military chiefs deny knowing where any missing victims of anti-leftist repression may be buried.

Speaking at a press conference marking his 100th day in office, Aylwin also said he would allow the trial and punishment of any military officer, including ex-president Augusto Pinochet, on human rights abuse charges if the courts found legal grounds.

Since the country's return to democracy, authorities have found two mass graves believed used by the army after a 1973 coup. Twenty-three bodies were unearthed, but about 700 suspected leftists who disappeared during military rule remain missing.

Speaking at a press conference in the presidential palace, Aylwin said he and his defence minister asked top military authorities for any information on other hidden graves.

"The answer I received is that there is willingness to co-operate on the matter, but that the high commands don't know where these places really are," he said.

Among the missing were more than 100 people summarily executed by special military-led tribunals after the coup, according to human rights organisations.

Fujimori likely to sign military accords with US

LIMA, June 22. (AP): President-elect Alberto Fujimori yesterday indicated he will allow the United States to train Peruvian soldiers in anti-rebel and anti-drug warfare.

Fujimori, to take office July 28, said he largely approves of an agreement calling for Washington to give \$35 million in military aid to Peru this year. The accord includes funds for building a training base near Peru's drug-rich Upper Hualaga valley.

"In principle, I consider the agreement useful and opportune for the fight against

narco-terrorism," Fujimori said.

Fujimori, speaking to foreign reporters, also said he plans to renew Peru's contacts with the International Monetary Fund. He said there is a "consensus in the country" in favour of restoring the ties, broken off by outgoing President Alan Garcia.

The Upper Hualaga is the world's main source of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine. At least a thousand Maoist Shining Path guerrillas are believed to operate in the valley, located on the jungle-covered eastern

slopes of the Andes 250 miles (400 kilometres) northeast of Lima.

The rebels provide protection for drug traffickers in exchange for money and arms.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration and Peruvian police already jointly run an anti-drug airbase in the valley. The new military agreement includes \$20 million to build a training camp and outfit Peruvian soldiers with arms and equipment.

The agreement was drawn up by Washington and Garcia's outgoing administration.

1 killed in Haiti gunmen attack

PORT-AU-PRINCE, June 22. (Reuters): In an apparent assassination attempt of a leading official, four gunmen opened fire yesterday outside a meeting of state members, officials and witnesses said.

One person was killed and two were injured in the hold daylight attack at the Santos guest house in a residential neighbourhood of the Haitian capital.

One member of the council of state, a quasi-legislative body which has a key role in organising democratic elections this autumn, was among the wounded, according to Venel Remarais, a council of state member and spokesman.

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New Aids treatment better

AZT may soon be replaced by combination of drugs

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22, (AP) — Aids treatments emerging from the national institutes of health promise to be as good as existing treatments but without many of the severe side effects, new studies show.

Existing treatments revolving around the drug AZT may soon be replaced by combinations of drugs that can kill the Aids virus without the damage to the blood-producing bone marrow often caused by AZT, researchers said Thursday at the Sixth International Conference on Aids.

The world's largest meeting on Aids continued to be the target of demonstrations. Several hundred demonstrators marched to city hall and about 50 were arrested when they blocked traffic in a nearby intersection.

An Aids-infected doctor who delivered a moving talk to the conference on discrimination against Aids patients said that the Johns Hopkins University Medical School had taken the unusual step of seeking a court injunction to bar his speech.

Dr. Hacıb Aoum, who contracted Aids from a patient's blood in 1983 while in training at Hopkins, was forced to sue Hopkins to get medical coverage, he said.

The 1987 settlement of the suit was kept secret, and a Hopkins spokeswoman said the institution was trying to be sure Aoum did not violate that secrecy.

Highlights

The following were among the meeting's highlights:

■ Tests by Dr. Gary Richwald and colleagues at UCLA of 246 prostitutes in a legal Nevada brothel found that none had acquired an Aids infection since 1986. That was the year the state made use of condoms mandatory in its 35 legal brothels.

"Along about 1985, when the Aids epidemic really hit and was a news item, I really gave serious thought that perhaps the party was over," said Russell Reade, co-owner of the chicken ranch in Pahump, Nevada. "I was pleasantly surprised that business increased."

■ Ten years into the Aids epidemic, some gay men were relapsing into unsafe sexual practices that could lead to an even larger second wave of deadly infection, researchers said.

Maggie Reinfield of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City said the organization has established an educational and advertising campaign to combat that. "Safer sex gets a lot tougher when you have to live with it your whole life," she said.

■ More than 1 million African children who are not infected with the Aids virus have Aids-infected mothers and are likely to become orphans, said Eunice Kierini of the World Health Organisation. Fifty per cent of Africa's Aids cases are in women, she said.

Drug

In Tokyo, a Japanese company said today it had developed a drug which could combat the virus which causes Aids.

A spokesman for the Daiichi Pharmaceutical Company said the drug, DR3355, had killed the HIV-1 virus in human white blood cells in 30 days of test-tube trials.

Daiichi will apply to the US government to start clinical testing of DR3355 later this year, he said. The tests will be conducted jointly with US drug firm Johnson and Johnson.

In San Francisco, a witch's cauldron of boiling blood, mushrooms and mistletoe has been concocted as alternative treatments for Aids by doctors fed up with the lack of conventional medical progress in treating the deadly disease.

Boiling a patient's blood to kill the HIV virus which causes Aids, eating certain mushrooms from the orient, and making a meal out of crushed mistletoe were among remedies discussed.

One of the speakers to address the Advanced Immune Discovery Symposium — whose acronym also is Aids — was Dr. Peter Duesberg, a controversial professor at the University of California at Berkeley, who maintains that Aids is not infectious.

Delay

The drug Isoprenosine can delay the onset of Aids in patients with few symptoms of the deadly disease, according to a study released on Wednesday that contradicts earlier large studies of the drug.

The new study, published in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, a prestigious medical journal, was conducted by Scandinavian researchers led by court Peder- sen.

Despite the promising results, "the lack of corroborating evidence of efficacy... makes a confirmatory study mandatory," three US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials who review anti-Aids drugs for the regulatory agency said in an editorial accompanying the study.

In San Francisco, in what has become an annual rite at Aids conferences, another three per cent of the longest-studied group of infected people have fallen ill with Aids over the past 12 months, researchers reported.

The latest grim report came on Thursday, the second day of the Sixth International Conference on Aids.

Year after year, in a study that now spans 11.7 years, more of the group of infected people develop symptoms and eventually fall ill, leading researchers to conclude that Aids remains invariably fatal and that long-term hope for containing the disease most likely lies with a vaccine to prevent it.

■ Future international Aids meetings won't be held in the United States and other countries that restrict the entry of people infected with the Aids virus, a top conference official said.

"It's not appropriate to hold the conference in countries that have restrictions," Dr. Paul Volberding of the University of California, San Francisco, said Wednesday.



Three young men with Aids from the activist group Act-Up listen to the group's leader Peter Staley speak about the personal side of their disease June 20. (Reuter wirephoto)

Oldest face bones may place man's ancestry

WASHINGTON, June 22, (UPI) — Paleontologists unearthed bones from the face of an ancient skull in northern Greece that may be the oldest fossil remains of a human ancestor after they separated from the apes, it was reported.

In a report in the British science journal Nature that sparked immediate scepticism from other researchers, French and Greek scientists described the skull portion and their conclusion that it could provide an important link in human evolution.

"If it were true that this was the human ancestor and not the ape-human ancestor, it would be a very important find. This would be a split off," said Alan Walker, a professor of cell biology and anatomy at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Apes and humans are believed to have diverged in their evolution somewhere between 500,000 and 12 million years ago, with most experts believing the branching occurred between five million and eight million years ago.

Before the discovery of the new fossil, scientists had fossil remains of animals that were ancestors of both apes and humans dating back between 12 million and 14 million years ago.

But the oldest fossil remains for human ancestors after the split from African apes was from a small-brained, heavy-jawed creature from East and South Africa known as "Australopithecus," dating back about four million years.

The latest skull was dug up in September 1989 in a section of northern Greece known as Macedonia from a site known to contain fossils dating back 10 million years to the so-called Miocene period.

Dubbed Ouranopithecus, the bones include the right part of the face of an adult male and portions of the frontal bone, left part of the face, upper jaw and a complete set of teeth except for a right molar.

Certain physical attributes of the bones, such as the thickness of the enamel in the teeth and the size of the teeth, place it between Australopithecus and the ancient apes, the researchers said.

If the skull turns out to be what the researchers claim, it would help pinpoint the date when humans and apes diverged and suggest the split might have occurred in Greece rather than Africa, where most scientists had thought.

But in an accompanying essay, Peter Andrews of the Natural History Museum in London questioned the conclusion, arguing the fossil is more likely from an animal that was an ancestor of both apes and humans.

"Although the new skull is put forward as a direct human ancestor, thereby implying the presence of the hominid lineage in Greece nine million to 10 million years ago, I have my doubts about this interpretation," he said.

Even if the researchers' conclusion turns out to be faulty, Walker called the remains "a great fossil," adding, "I'm sure it's going to be very important."

Swedes make medicine of tobacco

STOCKHOLM, June 22, (AP) — Swedish researchers have discovered that tobacco plants can be used to help heart patients.

A team at Reserca, the Swedish tobacco research company, injected human genes into a tobacco plant and could later extract tissue plasminogen activator (TPA). TPA dissolves blood clots and is used in treatment of heart patients.

"We hope to be able to produce many different medicines with the help of tobacco plants," said Professor Curt Enzell, who heads the project.

The state-owned Swedish tobacco company, which produces and sells cigarettes and pipe tobacco, has been searching for alternatives at a time of tightened restrictions against smoking.

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The British Council

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'Slave traders' rake in millions by 'smuggling' Chinese

BEIJING, June 22, (Reuters): Modern-day "slave traders" are making millions out of the misery of Chinese nationals by smuggling them out of China to a new life of prostitution, drugs and menial labour in the United States.

Tens of thousands of Chinese are now trying to escape the country. Diplomats say pressure to leave has gathered a momentum unprecedented since the communists took power in 1949.

"I'd do anything to get out — I'd walk for days to get across the border," one young Chinese confided to a reporter.

But in the desperation to flee an economic crisis and a crackdown on political dissent, many Chinese are falling into the hands of smugglers and end-

ing up little better than slaves, diplomats say. The human tragedy was highlighted recently with the uncovering of a plot to smuggle thousands of Chinese people into the United States from Panama.

"You're talking about 7,000 of these people a year at up to \$40,000 a head — that's a business of about \$280 million a year," said one diplomat. One Chinese woman is now awaiting trial in the United States, accused of raking in \$30 million in the last year alone from human trafficking. She was recently released on bail of \$25,000.

Foreigners — businessmen, journalists, and tourists as well as diplomats — are constantly asked for advice by Chinese residents on how to resettle

abroad. Even if they manage to get past foreign immigration authorities, their dreams of freedom and riches are often mocked by the harsh realities of their new life.

"There's a mistaken belief that these people leaving have a chance at freedom," said one diplomat. "But so many of them are enslaved by their smugglers when they get to the United States. The smugglers make indentured servants out of them."

Many are forced to pay their debts to smugglers through prostitution and drug-running, or end up washing dishes for a pittance in a Chinese restaurant, another diplomat said.

Pressure to leave gathered steam last year when

China's economy slumped, especially in the south where unemployment is high, said a Western aid official.

Dozens of students and others were caught trying to flee through the southern province of Yunnan to Burma — some with forged documents — after Beijing's bloody military crackdown on dissent a year ago.

One senior Western diplomat said he did not expect a tidal wave of political refugees from China "unless there is a political cataclysm like an all-out civil war."

Nevertheless, each day in Beijing, Chinese residents form long queues outside embassies in the hope of securing a precious visa.

After last year, growing numbers began leaving without visas to set sail for what they saw as more golden shores.

The idea of millions pouring out of China frightens the country's most prosperous neighbour, Japan. Since last year, nearly 2,700 have sailed from southern China to Japan posing as Vietnamese boat people in a bid to win political asylum.

Would-be immigrants promise to pay smugglers \$25,000 to \$40,000, while the average annual wage in China is below \$300. "The Chinese prey on each other, this is a tragedy," he said.

Too few resources and a shortage of manpower are hampering efforts to stem the tide of illegal

Chinese immigrants to their prime destination, the United States, a diplomat said.

The US government devotes only six officers world-wide to deal with the problem. Its system of paid informants, the key means of breaking smuggling rings, is poorly funded.

Informants in the United States are often members of Chinese underworld triad gangs who have taken an oath of secrecy. Buying them off is costly and dangerous.

"The administration is dealing with the Chinese problem the same way it deals with Mexicans, where you can buy informants for \$10," said the diplomat.

Aya flies home, to marry June 29

TOKYO, June 22, (Reuters): The love story that captured the romantic imagination of a nation neared its climax yesterday when Prince Aya, 24-year-old younger son of Emperor Akihito, returned to Japan to take the hand of his commoner fiancée.

"I'm looking forward to my new life, but distance has made it difficult for me to really feel the excitement," the tall prince with the droopy moustache said just before completing his zoology studies at Britain's Oxford University.

Aya, second-in-line to the imperial throne behind unmarried elder brother Naruhito, 30, surprised the public last autumn by announcing his engagement to 23-year-old Kiko Kawashima. They are to marry on June 29.

Though he is seen here as a prince charming, his bride-to-be is certainly no Cinderella. "Kiko-San", as the popular press affectionately calls her, is the daughter of an economics professor and was Aya's fellow student at Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

The two have been separated since announcing their engagement, Aya returning to Oxford to continue his research into catfish, which he calls his life's work.

Kawashima began learning from courtiers the elaborate rituals that are to become a part of her life.

News of their love affair came as a breath of fresh air to Japan after months of political and sex scandals. The local press lapped it all up, splashing headlines with accounts of the couple's campus courtship and gushing over the engagements ring, shaped to depict two entwined catfish.

Aya is only the second male member of Japan's centuries-old imperial family to seek and win the hand of a commoner. Kawashima will be made a princess after they marry.

Aya follows in the footsteps of his father, Akihito, who, as crown prince in 1959, broke imperial precedent and married Michiko, the daughter of a wealthy flour miller.

The family of "Kiko-San", now a graduate student of psychology, do not even belong to the merchant class, and Japan greeted the news of the prince's engagement to her as another sign the mystery-shrouded imperial family is finally emerging from behind its "chrysanthemum curtain".

Local magazines say Michiko was the main force in convincing the emperor and Kawashima's parents to approve the match, after initial objections that are believed to have made Aya threaten to renounce his imperial status.

Seoul envoy rejects Pyongyang call

UNITED NATIONS, June 22, (AP): South Korea's new UN envoy rejected North Korea's call for the two Korean states to share a single UN seat.

Hyun Hong-Choo, South Korea's permanent observer to the United Nations, said the two Koreas should simultaneously be offered separate memberships in the United Nations.

North and South Korea hold non-voting observer status at the body. However, "we are prepared to enter the UN (alone) if North Korea is opposed to it," Hyun said in a speech Wednesday to the Asia Society, a non-partisan group dedicated to promoting better US-Asian ties.

Earlier, the Japanese government asked the US military to improve its safety practices.

He said investigators still had "more questions than answers" in their probe of what caused two explosions Wednesday in a small storeroom for firefighting and other emergency equipment aboard the 67,000-ton ship.

One unidentified crewman interviewed on Japanese television Thursday said a fuel pipe near a steam line running close to the storeroom cracked and leaked fuel, which then ignited.

"It is premature to speculate" on what caused the explosion, Neuhart said.

After the air evacuation of six injured crewmen, he said, three

Both nations were blessed with leaders who recognised their countries' mutual interest in the trans-Pacific alliance, he said.

The 30-year-old US-Japan security arrangements, he said, "give international credibility to Japan's fundamental position as a nation committed not to become a military power, thus facilitating the acceptance of larger political and economic roles for Japan by its neighbours."

US-Japanese military ties appear solid for now despite growing Defence Department budget cuts and a periodic tapping on the nuclear weapons nerve as the two nations celebrate the 30th anniversary of



Aya completes studies, back in Japan

Prince Aya (left) younger son of Emperor Akihito and Kiko Kawashima the prince's commoner fiancée speak at a news conference announcing their engagement at the Akasaka Palace September 12, 1989. The prince returned to Japan June 21 after completing his zoology studies at Britain's Oxford University. They are to marry on June 29. (Reuters filephoto)



Adm Bull points out at panels to explain the cause of fire aboard the USS Midway June 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Midway being probed

Explosion cause not known

TOKYO, June 22, (AP): Investigators were probing a small storeroom and interviewing crewmen on the US aircraft carrier Midway today, trying to find out what caused an explosion that killed two crewmen and seriously injured nine.

Six seriously burned sailors from Wednesday's explosion were flown today to the Brooke Army Medical Centre burn unit in San Antonio, Texas, said Cmdr Mark Neuhart, US 7th Fleet public affairs officer.

Meanwhile, Japanese newspapers complained of unanswered questions about the explosion.

"Show nothing, say nothing," said a headline in the national newspaper Mainichi Shimbun. It said reporters were allowed to see only part of the hangar deck used for a news conference, and the conference ended in 20 minutes "while reporters still had many questions remaining."

The national newspaper Asahi Shimbun asked: "Was there really no harm to the environment? Not only has the mystery not been solved, it has gotten deeper."

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seriously hurt sailors remained under intensive care at the naval hospital at Yokosuka, 28 miles (45 kms) southwest of Tokyo.

"The safety of the ship was never in jeopardy," Rear Adm Lyle Bull, commander of the battle force 7th fleet, told about 100 reporters escorted aboard the ship a day after the blasts.

The government of Japan, the only country to experience nuclear attack, asked the US military to improve its safety practices and Yokosuka city officials demanded assurances of the 45-year-old carrier's safety before its return.

Defence motions to dismiss are customary in criminal cases and rarely are granted.

Keenan's ruling clears the way for closing arguments on Monday. The jury could begin deliberations as early as next Thursday.

After the prosecution rested its case on Tuesday, attorneys for both defendants said they would call no witnesses.

Imelda, 60, is charged with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice. If convicted, she would face a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Manila and eastern Luzon were hit by tropical storm Ofelia's gusty winds and heavy rains Thursday. The storm headed toward the main Philippine archipelago with winds up to 110 kph (68 mph) per hour.

Forecasters said the storm centre was expected to strike the northern coast of Luzon late Thursday. Earlier, heavy rains churned up by the storm struck Manila and southeastern Luzon, triggering landslides and disrupting transport.

At noon (0300 GMT), Ofelia was centred about 200 kms (120 miles) northeast of Cebu, a small island about 350 kms (220 miles) southeast of Manila.

The storm was moving west-northwest toward Luzon's Aurora province at 26 kms (16 mph) per hour, officials said.

Many Americans see Japan as an economic enemy, but analysts say that is tempered by the knowledge that Asia is a trade giant with which Washington must maintain close ties.

The experts also say the Japanese favour keeping thousands of US sailors and marines on their soil although many question the rising cost to Japan of that presence.

The US-Japan security treaty, ratified on June 23, 1960, enabled Japan to put aside fears of a Soviet threat and embark on rapid economic growth under Washington's security umbrella.

On Wednesday, US district judge John Keenan, who has presided over the three-month trial, said he was bound by law to allow a jury to decide the case against Imelda Marcos and her co-defendant, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi.

Although the court has expressed questions concerning the prosecution, it is not under the American system of jurisprudence to make policy decisions. That's for the executive branch of our government," Keenan said.

On Wednesday, during arguments on the dismissal motions, Keenan suggested that the trial may belong in the Philippines.

Keenan let stand all the charges, saying the law that governs the dismissal motions required him to review the evidence "in the light most favourable to the prosecution."

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'Imelda will be tried' by Philippine court

US judge expresses reservations

MANILA, June 22, (AP): President Corason Aquino said today that former first lady Imelda Marcos eventually will be tried by Philippine courts but gave no indication of when.

On Wednesday, US district judge John Keenan, who has presided over Imelda's three-month racketeering trial in New York, expressed reservations about whether a US court should hear the case against her. Asked whether the Philippines planned to prosecute Imelda, Aquino said in a statement: "At the proper time, she will be tried in the Philippines for crimes committed in the Philippines against Philippine laws."

Aquino refused to allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines and has banned his immediate family from returning, citing national security.

The Philippine judicial system is slow and cumbersome, especially in politically sensitive cases. The trial of 40 defendants charged in the 1983 assassination of Aquino's husband, Benigno, began in April 1987 and is still continuing.

A federal judge on Thursday declined to dismiss racketeering charges against former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos despite his reservations about the prosecution.

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Cambodia reports coup plot checked

BANGKOK, June 22, (AP): Communist Cambodia said it has foiled a coup plot, in an announcement that follows the arrest of key figures accused of trying to form a rival political party.

Cambodian government radio on Wednesday said the plotters had conspired to launch their bid between June and August, with the support of unspecified "foreign espionage circles."

A text of the broadcast was seen yesterday in Bangkok.

The announcement on official Phnom Penh radio on Wednesday mentioned no names.

But on May 25 a government minister, three senior officials and two army officers were arrested for trying to form a new political party, according to Cambodian sources and foreign diplomats.

The attempt was reported as guerrilla forces led by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge pressed closer to Phnom Penh with a new rainy season offensive, briefly seizing the central provincial capital of Kompong Thom and shelling the western city of Battambang at the weekend.

The detained men were believed to be Transport and Communications Minister Ung Phan, Kan Man, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's US and European Bureau, Thun Saray, director of the institute of sociology, Non Saing Khan, chief of planning in Ung Phan's ministry, and two army officers, Lieutenant Colonel Kay Mathury of the construction brigade and Colonel On Sum of the Defence Ministry research department.

The sources said they wanted to set up the Democratic Freedom Party. A guerrilla source said at the time of the arrests the detained men believed the present government was too much under the control of the Vietnamese. He did not say if his faction was directly linked to any plot.

The president said that because they could not succeed militarily, the enemies took advantage of the state's political and economic liberalisation policy "to set up a traitorous force within our human ranks with the intention of overthrowing the state of Cambodia through attacks from the rear in addition to military attacks from the front."

"These foreign espionage circles enlisted the help of some inactive and idle persons and hooligans to form a secret reactionary organisation for subversive activities," it said.

"This would take the form of a reactionary coup d'etat if our party and state had failed to prevent it," the broadcast said.

It said the organisation "did not represent democracy in any way," and was only part of an attempt to allow the return of the brutal Khmer Rouge, a radical communist group that ruled Cambodia in 1975-79.

"The punishment of this act of treason does not mean a suppression of the aspirations for democracy," it said. "On the contrary, this punishment should be seen as a defence of democracy."

The Khmer Rouge is the most powerful of three guerrilla armies fighting the Phnom Penh government. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978, ousted the Khmer Rouge from power, then installed the Phnom Penh government.

The Election Commission has taken nearly a month to compile an official list of results and is still lacking figures in four constituencies. Of the 481 seats announced, the opposition National League for Democracy has won 397 despite the widespread arrest and intimidation of its members.

The Election Commission on Thursday said the last few results had been delayed by poor communications.

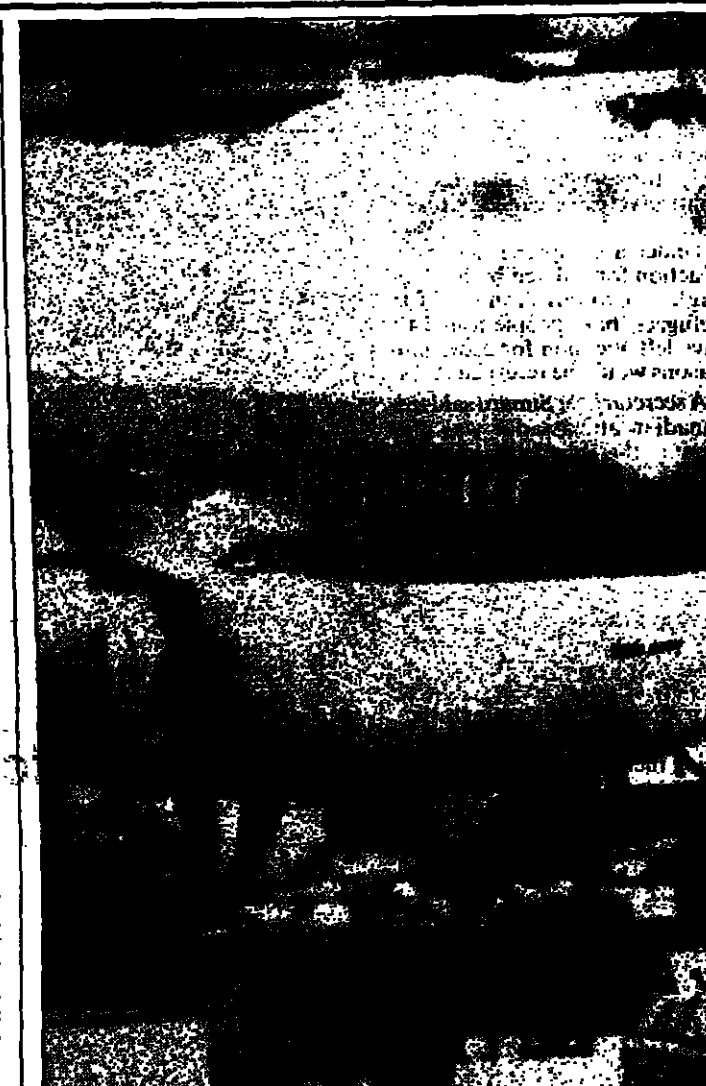
Since the May 27 poll the army, which has ruled Burma under strict martial law for nearly two years, has said it will only hand over power to a government formed after adopting a new constitution.

Leaders of the League, land-

Despite allegations that Imelda and her late husband, former president Ferdinand Marcos, plundered the nation's treasury, the former first couple has never been charged with a criminal offence here.

The Philippine constitution bars trials in absentia. Legal sources say prosecutors have been prepared to indict Imelda for years but the Aquino government refuses to do so for fear she would insist on her right to return to face the accusations.

Marcos died last September in Hawaii, where he and his wife had lived since he was ousted in the 1986 "people power" revolution that swept Aquino to the presidency.



False fire alarm

Passengers scrambled clear of a United Airlines Boeing 747 airliner on Friday when a fire alarm was triggered after it landed at Hong Kong airport, a government spokeswoman said.

Three people were slightly hurt when the 198 passengers and crew aboard UA 806 from Singapore slid down inflatable evacuation slides.

The spokeswoman said firemen checked the aircraft and found no evidence of smoke or fire. Normal airport operations resumed after about 20 minutes. She said the pilot radioed that a fire warning light had gone on in the cockpit just after the aircraft touched down. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burmese rulers promise talks

Opposition proposal attacked

RANGOON, June 22, (Reuters): Burma's army rulers, humiliated by a landslide in last month's elections, today promised talks with the winners but effectively rejected demands for a quick handover of power.

A spokesman for the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council told a news conference it had made arrangements to meet with representatives of victorious political parties, but had set no date.

"We are merely waiting for the right and proper time to hold a dialogue between the SLORC and the political parties," the spokesman said.

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Leaders of the League, land-

slide winners in last month's elections, had said they might approve a constitution within a few days of a National Assembly sitting to comply with army terms for transferring power.

On Friday an editorial in the state-run Working People's Daily, the country's only newspaper, ruled out opposition plans to rush through a constitution.

"It has been said that the Constitution (of 1947) was written in three months and 23 days only. Certain people are saying nowadays that it can be done in much less. In our opinion, this is the height of irresponsibility or else of crass ignorance," the editorial said.

Army leaders have said the existing constitutions of 1947 and 1974 are no longer applicable.

Diplomats in Rangoon said the editorial, which did not mention the League by name, was the first outspoken government attack since the polls on opposition plans to speed a constitution through parliament.

Since the election League leaders such as acting chairman Kyi Maung have called for a quick transfer of power to avoid the bloody confrontations of 1988, when the army quashed nation-wide calls for a change of government.

Manila refuses refugees asylum

MANILA, June 22 (UPI): The Philippines refused asylum today to 88 Vietnamese rescued by Canadian yachts, saying it wanted an assurance the boat people would be resettled in Canada in three years, officials said.

Officials said six ailing Vietnamese were airlifted to Manila today and hospitalized.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus sent a letter to the Canadian embassy detailing the Philippine position on the eve of the arrival in Manila of the Canadian supply ship Provider and the destroyer Kootenay with the refugees aboard.

"We would like assurances that they would be transferred from the Philippines by Dec 31, 1992, whether or not they are determined to be refugees," Manglapus told Canadian Ambassador Andre Simard in the letter released to reporters.

The Provider and the Kootenay rescued 90 Vietnamese June 11 en route to Manila, where the ships were expected to arrive tomorrow. Two of the refugees died during the journey, the Philippine military said.

A Philippine official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Canada was unable to give the guarantee Manila was demanding, resettlement of the Vietnamese in Canada, because only those who qualified as political refugees would be resettled.

Under a comprehensive plan of action formulated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, boat people found to have left Vietnam for economic reasons would be returned.

A secretary for Simard said the Canadian ambassador was discussing the problem with the Philippine government and declined immediate comment.

Last week, the Philippines for three weeks refused temporary asylum to 255 Vietnamese picked up by US vessels until it was given assurance the United States would resettle the refugees within three years.

First asylum countries in Asia have complained against the "open-ended" stay of refugees, saying their presence could encourage more boat people.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday there was no "moral difference" between refugees who flee their homelands for political reasons and those trying to escape poverty.

But Thorvald Stoltenberg said the flood of economic refugees, particularly from Indo-China, could destroy international programmes to offer havens for the victims of political oppression.

Stoltenberg, who arrived Wednesday for a two-day visit, told reporters there is a "tendency to look at economic refugees as less acceptable than political refugees."

The United States faces a painful decision between easing its opposition to forced repatriation of Vietnamese "boat people" or seeing them pushed back to sea and potential death, Congress was told yesterday.

Countries providing temporary "first asylum" refuge under a year-old Geneva agreement have given the United States until July 1 to arrange new alternatives for people screened out as ineligible for resettlement.

Those deemed to be fleeing poverty rather than political persecution are not granted haven.

Without waiting for the deadline, Malaysia has forced an estimated 7,700 boat people back to sea, causing five reported deaths, Princeton N. Lyman, refugee programmes director, told the House of Representatives Asia-Pacific subcommittee.



Mowaljarli is pictured June 21 nursing a box of Aboriginal bones returned from Bradford University. (Reuter wirephoto)

Century-old bones

Aborigines to tackle mystery

SYDNEY, June 22 (Reuter): The Australian aboriginal community is attempting to solve a mystery at which even the master sleuth Sherlock Holmes might have balked.

Aborigines throughout Australia are being asked to help identify a collection of bones belonging to an aboriginal man whose body was sent to England for scientific experiments more than a century ago.

Until he is identified and buried in his tribal land, Aborigines believe his spirit will not rest. Unlike modern police investigations, the aborigines' search will not rely on sophisticated forensic science. Instead it will depend on their dream-time legends and history, passed by word-of-mouth from generation to generation.

Yesterday, David Mowaljarli, an elder of the Ngariny people of western Australia, took possession of the bones. For the present, the mystery aborigine would be called Juwardi, somebody whose spirit had not come to rest in its territory of origin, he said.

"There is bound to be someone alive now, or who is not long dead, who was named after a man who disappeared or who was not buried in his country," said Mowaljarli.

"Someone could have been named after a story about the man who disappeared," he said. "It won't be lost; it will still be there, the knowledge about who this fellow is."

"It is only 100 years we're talking about; that is nothing to blackfellow."

Once his identity is revealed, Mowaljarli said, a special airtail, a day-long bush burial ceremony, would be performed. During the ceremony wild animals would be killed and cooked and their flesh would become the flesh of the dead man, he said.

Mowaljarli said information about the aborigine obtained from Bradford University in England, where the body was taken for experiments at the turn of the century, suggested he was from the broome area on the northern coastline of western Australia.

Taiwan releases Hou

Aussies firm against China

TAIPEI, June 22 (Agencies): Taiwan authorities released dissident pop star Hou Dejian at midnight on Thursday but said he could still be prosecuted. Officials said today that prosecutors were studying whether Hou, who defected to China seven years ago but was sent back home by Beijing, should face trial for illegal entry or violating national security law.

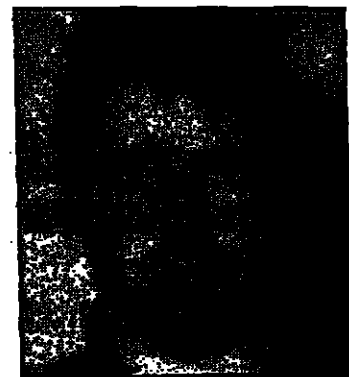
He later told reporters: "I have no plans... I've already said I had no choice but to come back."

Witnesses said Hou was in a buoyant mood, flashing a "thumbs up" sign through a crack in the door of a hearing room at Taipei district court.

He later told reporters: "I have no plans... I've already said I had no choice but to come back."

Dutch found vital evidence

IRA attacks



Paul Hughes

Hughes on a getaway car used by guerrillas who killed two Australian tourists they mistook for off-duty British soldiers in the southern town of Roermond last month.

The IRA, fighting British rule in northern Ireland, said it was responsible for the murder of the tourists but described it as a tragic mistake.

Hughes, 26, was charged on Thursday with murder and could face a life sentence, which in the Netherlands effectively means 15 to 20 years imprisonment.

He was arrested on Tuesday, ending a three-day international manhunt which started on Saturday after Belgian police, alerted by a family who became suspicious of strangers in woods near their home, arrested a man and woman near the town of Turnhout.

The man escaped, still wearing handcuffs, and a second man fled before police arrived.

AMSTERDAM, June 22 (Reuter): Dutch police say they have found important evidence that could help solve a series of Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks in the Netherlands, Belgium and West Germany over the past two years.

"We seem to finally have got a grip on IRA activists and it's the first real lead we have since the IRA started its campaign on the northern European continent a few years ago," a police spokesman told Reuters.

Police said they found the fingerprints of IRA suspect Paul Hughes on a getaway car used by guerrillas who killed two Australian tourists they mistook for off-duty British soldiers in the southern town of Roermond last month.

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Colombian jailed

Smuggling drugs into Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, June 22 (Reuter): The Colombian leader of a drugs gang caught smuggling nearly three tonnes of cocaine into the Netherlands was jailed for 15 years by a Dutch court yesterday.

The man, identified only as 39-year-old R.G., was the most important member of a group arrested by police in February while moving the record haul from a warehouse in the port of IJmuiden, Haarlem court spokeswoman Joekel van de Pal said.

Three of his Colombian accomplices received jail terms of between seven and nine years, she added.

In keeping with Dutch practice, all those sentenced were only identified by their initials.

Four other members of the same gang — three Dutch and one Colombian — were sentenced to prison terms of between seven and 13 years by the same court on Wednesday.

Van de Pal said the gang boss ran a company which shipped cocaine from South America to Europe hidden in consignments of fruit and juice over a period of two years.

He served a previous jail sentence for drugs smuggling in Spain between 1979 and 1983, she added.

Taylor's tattered army swells

TAPETA, Liberia, June 22 (Reuter): They call themselves Black Cobra. Border Patrol or Idi Amin but address each other as Sir, clicking their heels respectfully.

They wear ju-ju charms round their necks, paint their faces with white clay and claim bullets bounce off their bare chests, but supplement their bows and arrows with an ill-assorted range of automatic weapons to force their way to power.

Liberian rebels waging a jungle war are now within striking distance of the capital Monrovia where President Samuel Doe has barricaded himself with demoralised troops, waiting for the final and probably bloody push.

Last-ditch peace talks are due to resume on Monday in neighbouring Sierra Leone but there seems little chance of success. The rebels say they will take Monrovia within hours if the negotiations brokered by religious leaders collapse.

From just 150 men armed with a few guns

and machetes, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has swollen in six months to a tattered army of several thousands mostly unruly and poorly-trained teenagers determined to oust Doe.

The NPFL's self-styled freedom fighters say they already control two thirds of black Africa's oldest independent republic, including vital timber forests, iron ore mines and rubber plantations, after six months of relentless guerrilla warfare.

"Give me Doe any time and I will blow his brains out, man," said Julius Dhan, alias Black Cobra. A member of the NPFL's special forces, or Scorpion Commandos, he was resting at Tapeta, an abandoned Baptist mission in northeastern Nimba county where the uprising began on Dec 24.

"No way we are going to pull back. We want Doe out and nothing will stop us," said the 19-year school drop-out who joined the rebels in January from his native Nimba Mountains.

Julius never parts with the brand new US-made M-16 automatic rifle he captured from government soldiers in a jungle ambush in April. He claimed to be protected by black magic.

"I knew that no-one could kill me as bullets were bouncing off my body. I slit the enemy's throat and took his rifle," he boasted.

Unlike most of Africa's internal strife, the Liberian civil war has no clear ideological roots.

Revolutionary rhetoric is unusual absent and the heroes of these gun-toting, T-shirted jungle youths are not political figures like Nelson Mandela or Che Guevara but Reggae star Bob Marley, or movie super-warrior Rambo.

Their leader Charles Taylor is a stocky, 42-year-old who has no military background and proclaims himself "a diehard capitalist."

A US-educated Baptist who fled Liberia in 1983, Taylor is a popular leader who wields a charismatic power over his followers.

Liberian rebels capture town

MONROVIA, June 22 (AP): Rebels captured the town of Careyburg 24 kilometres (15 miles) northeast of Monrovia, provoking a fresh scramble yesterday by panicking residents to get planes and cars to flee the capital.

The victory gives the rebels control of Careyburg's entrance to the US government Voice of America transmitter for Africa.

The transmitter itself is about 1 mile (.61 kilometre) from Careyburg, a settlement of gracious houses styled after southern US plantation mansions built by the freed American slaves who founded this West African nation in 1874.

No Americans were at the huge radio relay station when rebels attacked on Wednesday afternoon and seized the town by the evening, according to Western diplomats and Careyburg residents who fled to Monrovia.

The rebel advance comes a few days before a second round of peace talks between the warring parties is scheduled to begin in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. At the end of the first round of talks the rebels signed an agreement pledging to "exercise self-restraint in the use of military force."

Church sources said a delegation of Christian and Muslim leaders mediating talks aimed at a ceasefire met with embattled President Samuel Doe at his Atlantic oceanside executive mansion in Monrovia yesterday.

"We're not optimistic," said a religious leader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said Doe dwelled on concessions he has made, including a promise not to stand for re-election during balloting scheduled in October 1991.



A young rebel fighter climbs aboard a Catholic church truck June 13 as teenage fighters to Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia move to the front. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mysterious Aceh killings

Indonesia govt. worried

JAKARTA, June 22 (Reuter): A wave of killings by mysterious armed rebels in Indonesia's strictly Muslim northernmost province of Aceh is fast becoming a major source of anxiety to the government, analysts said today.

Nobody is sure who the rebels are or what they want.

Drug tycoons, military deserters and Libyan-trained insurgents are all talked of as possibilities, analysts said.

Most likely, the rebels are ordinary Acehnese tired of economic discrimination by their rulers in Java, they said.

The present spate of killings in the northern Sumatran province began in April. At least six people have died and many others have been injured, the military said.

Human rights groups said they have received unconfirmed reports of 72 casualties among the military alone.

Swiss tighten asylum policy

GENEVA, June 22 (AP): Parliament on Wednesday gave final approval to tighter immigration legislation in an attempt to stem the ever-increasing flow of asylum seekers into Switzerland.

The new law, which takes effect today, speeds up screening procedures to separate genuine refugees fleeing political persecution from people seeking better living conditions.

In a bid to make Switzerland less attractive to economic migrants, it also prohibits asylum seekers from working for the first three months of their stay and suspends payment of child support.

Switzerland, which has a tradition of liberal immigration policies, has recently witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of asylum seekers.

Last year nearly 25,000 people asked for refugee status, even as an additional 40,000 requests from previous years remained outstanding. More than 95 per cent of applications processed in 1989 were rejected. Turks constituted the largest group of asylum seekers, followed by Sri Lankans.

Authorities have anticipated there will be at least 32,000 applications this year, double the 1988 level.

In a country where 16 per cent of the 6.7 million inhabitants are foreigners, the influx of immigrants has become a contentious political issue.

The new legislation cleared the remaining hurdle Wednesday when lawmakers in the upper house approved a controversial clause on child benefits by a 22-14 vote.

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| 3. TO-048 Valqua gaskets for water plant | KD 04.000 |
| 4. TO-049 Wiping rags | KD 08.000 |
| 5. TO-050 Geographical survey system | KD 08.000 |
| 6. TO-051 Office stationery | KD 04.000 |
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| 8. TO-053 Nikkiso pump | KD 04.000 |
| 9. TO-054 Parts for Byron Jackson pumps | KD 04.000 |
| 10. TO-055 Parts for Dengyosha pump | KD 04.000 |
| 11. TO-056 Homco tubing | KD 08.000 |
| 12. TO-057 Continuous supply of "Butane" gas for one (1) year | KD 04.000 |
| 13. TO-058 Laboratory utensils | KD 04.000 |
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Riyadh Office: 23-06-90 to 28-07-90

World News Roundup



Agra sells for record

The exotic Agra diamond (above), once worn in a 16th century Moghul emperor's turban, became the most expensive pink diamond in the world Wednesday when it sold at auction for a record 4.07 million pounds (\$6.95 million).

The 32.24 carat Agra, the largest pink diamond ever auctioned, was sold to Siba Hare Jewels of Hong Kong after fierce bidding at Christie's auction room in London. Siba made their successful bid by telephone.

The Agra sale beat the previous record price for a pink diamond of 3.6 million pounds (\$6.1 million) set at Christie's in May 1989.

Raymond Sanroff-Baker, senior director of Christie's Jewellery Department, said: "I am delighted, I had expected it to fetch 2.5 million pounds (\$4.2 million) to 2.8 million pounds (\$4.7 million). Its history obviously pushed up the price."

The world's seventh largest pink diamond, the Agra was the centrepiece of the most valuable sale of jewellery held in London. Its total of 12.9 million pounds (\$22 million) broke the previous record of 15.5 million pounds (\$49.4 million) set at Christie's in June 1989.

The general agreement in theory seems to be a go, the source said of a plan by which banks to which Trump owes an estimated \$2 billion would give him some \$60 million new cash and a breather from interest payments.

To service \$1.3 billion in bonds underlying his three Atlantic City casinos, the cash-starved Trump must refinance \$2 billion borrowed from banks to build his Manhattan real estate empire and other holdings.

Dutch insurer withdraws: A Dutch insurer has pulled out of a plan to build the world's biggest and most luxurious yacht for Donald Trump because it has lost faith in the troubled US property tycoon.

A spokeswoman for NCM, which protects firms against defaulting creditors, said on Wednesday it had cancelled contracts with several companies involved in the construction of the Trump Princess II.

The 128-metre (420-foot) yacht, worth about 400 million guilders (\$200 million), is being built in a small shipyard in the northern Dutch fishing village of Makkum.

"We have withdrawn because we received unfavourable information about Trump's financial position. We no longer have confidence in him," the spokeswoman said. (Reuter)

Widow wins execution stay: A woman known as Florida's "Black Widow", convicted of poisoning her husband and drowning her paralysed son, won a 24-hour stay of execution about two hours before she was to go to the electric chair on Thursday.

Judi Buenoano would have been the first woman executed in the United States since 1944 and the first prisoner to go to the chair in the southeastern state of Florida since the controversial execution last month of Jesse Tafero.

Three jolts of electricity were used on Tafero, and flames shot through his head. Witnesses said he appeared to breathe and move between the jolts. (Reuter)

Amendment rejected: The US House of Representatives on Thursday rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag against desecration, killing its chances for passage this year.

The desecration of the flag has become a major emotional issue throughout the United States and could figure in congressional elections later this year.

Supporters of the amendment say the flag should be protected as the nation's greatest symbol while opponents argue that it is more important to preserve the full constitutional right to freedom of expression. (Reuter)

Bush veto overrode: The House of Representatives voted Wednesday to override President George Bush's veto of legislation broadening the rights of millions of federal workers to participate in politics.

The 327-93 vote was well over the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto. The vote set up an expected showdown Thursday in the Senate, where a close vote is expected.

Bush vetoed the bill last week, saying it "would inevitably lead to politicising the federal work force" and destroy the neutrality of civil servants fostered by the 1939 Hatch Act.

The Democratic-controlled Congress has failed to override any of Bush's previous 11 vetoes. (AP)

Voice had no urgency: An air traffic controller testified Wednesday that the copilot of a doomed Colombian airliner had no urgency in his voice and did not use the word "emergency" when he reported the jet was low on fuel.

At the start of federal hearings about the crash, which killed 73 people on Jan 25, controller Phillip Brogan said he spoke with the pilot from the New York air route traffic control centre in Ronkonkoma.

The plane, Avianca Flight 52 with 158 people aboard, ran out of fuel and crashed into a wooded hillside in Cove Neck on Long Island on its way to Kennedy International airport in heavy fog and wind. (AP)

Judge rules against: A federal judge has ruled that thousands of descendants of an early Texas resident have no claim to a share of the Spindletop oilfield fortune or the estimated \$200 billion worth of oil pumped from it since the Lucas Gusher came in the 1901.

Hoverspeed

On course for Blue Riband

LONDON, June 22, (Reuter): The catamaran ferry Hoverspeed Great Britain, attempting the fastest Atlantic crossing by a passenger vessel, completed its first 1,000 miles on Thursday, just over 27 hours after leaving New York.

Its owners, the British company Hoverspeed, said the ship was on schedule in its attempt to capture the Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband transatlantic speed record — won by the liner United States in 1952.

The Hales Trophy was created by British Member of Parliament Harold Hales in the 1930s and was awarded to many British liners as well as an Italian and a German ship before the United States claimed it.

Hoverspeed Great Britain, carrying a crew of 10, is aiming to beat the liner's record of three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes by more than four hours.

The ship set out from Ambrose Light, 12 miles (19 km) from New York Harbour, on Tuesday night. It is due to cross the finishing line off Britain's Scilly Isles early on Saturday.

The 242-foot (73-metre) ship is the world's largest car-carrying catamaran, accommodating 450 passengers and 84 automobiles.

US district judge Howell Cobb's ruling came in the latest of a long series of lawsuits brought by would-be heirs against oil companies.

The ruling came in a summary judgement in favour of Amoco Production Inc., Mobil Oil Corp., Phillips Petroleum Co., Texaco Inc. and Chevron Inc. in a suit filed by four relatives who claimed kinship to Pelham Humphries and asked \$200 billion in oil, gas and mineral rights from the companies. (AP)

Tanker begins cargo transfer: The Norwegian tanker Mega Borg has begun transferring the remaining 34 million gallons (130 million litres) of crude oil to another vessel nearly two weeks after it exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.

A Coast Guard spokesman in Galveston told Reuters on Thursday the Mega Borg began pumping crude into a smaller vessel, the Janus, around 9:30 pm on Wednesday (0230 GMT Thursday). The process will take about five days to complete. (Reuter)

Oil slick stalls: The 30-mile (48-kilometre)-long oil slick from the supertanker Mega Borg stalled in the Gulf of Mexico and might not hit shore, a Coast Guard official said.

The longer it stays out there, the more it evaporates and the more (crude) can pick up," petty officer Dave Oney said Wednesday. "There might not be anything significant left in a couple of days."

The slick floated about 10 miles (16 kilometres) off the Texas shore northeast of Galveston and showed few signs of moving, the coast guard said. (AP)

Cop kills suspect: A police officer shot and killed an unarmed man at point blank range on the corner of the Boulevard St. Germain and the Boulevard Saint-Michel in Paris on Wednesday after forcing him to lie on the ground along with four other people suspected of playing false traveller's cheques, witnesses said.

The bizarre incident happened around 1 pm as tourists hunted for restaurants in the heart of the Latin quarter on the fashionable left bank under sunny skies. Police arrested three men aged between 25 and 30 years old and two young women and ordered the five to lie stretched on the sidewalk on the angle of the two boulevards so they could be handcuffed. (UPI)

French judges protest: French judges, defying laws barring them from striking, postponed trials and staged protests across France Thursday in an unprecedented walkout organised to demand more autonomy and better working conditions. A majority of the 6,000 judges participated in the "Day of National Action" and only urgent criminal cases were heard in several cities.

The judges say the judiciary has been degraded by inadequate facilities, budget restrictions and an excessive workload. In Paris and other major cities, judges abandoned their chambers to attend union rallies. (AP)

Britain's press warned: Home Secretary David Waddington warned the British press on Thursday it had a last chance to regulate itself or face government legislation.

He told parliament he endorsed a government committee's call for a press complaints commission to be set up to curb media excesses.

The committee called for the commission to be established within 12 months and said media violations of privacy should be made a criminal offence.

Waddington said: "This is positively the last chance for the industry to establish an effective non-statutory system of regulation and I strongly hope that it will seize the opportunity."

"If no steps are taken to establish a commission, the government will set up a statutory framework, taking account of the committee's recommendation." (Reuter)

Nazi war crimes bill: The British government said on Thursday it would reintroduce a Nazi War Crimes Bill rejected by the House of Lords, the non-elected upper house of Parliament.

The legislation, if passed, would open the way for the prosecution of suspected World War Two war criminals who were not British subjects when their alleged offences were committed.

Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe told parliament the government would seek to get the bill approved in the next session starting in November.

More than 70 people live in Britain who could be investigated for involvement in mass killings in German-occupied Baltic territories now part of the Soviet Union. (Reuter)

Doubts over 1980 crash: Italy's military intelligence chief told an official inquiry into a mysterious 1980 airliner crash that he doubted assertions by the United States, Britain and France that they knew nothing about the incident.

Admiral Fulvio Martini, testifying on Wednesday to a parliamentary commission of inquiry in Rome, said Italy had asked the secret services of the United States, Britain, France, Israel, Greece, Libya, Malta and Yugoslavia if they could shed any light on the crash in the Mediterranean off Italy.

A report last month by a panel of Italian experts was divided over whether the DC-9 crash, in which all 81 people were killed, was caused by a terrorist bomb or whether the plane was accidentally shot down by an unidentified air-to-air missile. (Reuter)

Mafia roots in Apulia: Italian investigators said on Thursday they feared Mafia-style organised crime had taken root for the first time in southeast Italy.

A senior judge in the City of Bari ordered 76 people to stand trial on charges of criminal association for the purposes of drug trafficking and extortion.

Judge Alberto Maritati issued the trial order after a two-year inquiry by magistrates and customs police in the Apulia region, where the heel of Italy's boot shape begins. (Reuter)

Spanish court overrules ban: Spain's highest court ruled on Thursday that Basque separatist elected to parliament could take their seats in a move that threatens to deprive Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of his official majority.

The constitutional court's unanimous ruling, released to the media, overturned a ban on the four elected members of the Herri Batasuna (HB) party who had refused to take the agreed oath to Spain's constitution.

The ruling, ending legal disputes which marred the results of last October's general election, gave the combined opposition 175 of the 530 seats in congress (lower house), the same number as Gonzalez's ruling Socialist Workers Party (PSOE). (Reuter)

Bomb blasts wreck cars: Time-bombs wrecked three cars in a wealthy Athens suburb on Thursday, but caused no injuries, police said.

The bombs were placed under the cars in the northern suburb of Kefalari, where some foreign diplomats live. It was the fifth similar bomb attack in Athens in two months.

Water wasters warned: Athenians who use hoses to wash their cars or the pavement outside their homes, or seal water from public reservoirs for farming, could face jail terms and fines, the Greek government said on Wednesday.

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Aussie stuntman injured

Australian waterski stuntman Geoff Carrington was critically injured prematurely and threw him into a pier June 20. Carrington did stunt while attempting a waterski stunt when a building on the lake exploded for a US television production. (Reuter wirephoto)

Japan Art Association awards

Bernstein, Fellini among winners

LONDON, June 22, (AP): American composer Leonard Bernstein, Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini and British architect James Stirling will receive 100,000 dollars each as winners of the Praemium Imperiale Prize, the Japan Art Association announced Thursday.

It is the second year the prizes for special achievement — the artistic equivalent of the Nobel Prize — have been awarded in painting, sculpture, architecture, music and theatre-film.

Other 1990 winners named Thursday were Spanish painter Antoni Tàpies and Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro.

"In this fragile but glorious world, we are helped and hindered by highspeed technology and communications. But man's legacy is not in the temporal world but in the reflections of the spirit in the arts," David Rockefeller, an international adviser to the prize, said at a news conference held to announce the prizes.

Other international advisers include Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former Italian premier Amintore Fanfani.

Bernstein made his debut in 1943 with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then the 71-year-old conductor, composer and pianist and Emmy Award winner has written the scores for a number of Broadway shows including "West Side Story."

Fellini, one of Italy's leading directors who has a style that is instantly recognizable, has received four academy awards including the Cannes film festival's top prize in 1960 for "La Dolce Vita."

Stirling's works include the State Gallery in Stuttgart, the Cloro Gallery for the Turner collection at London's Tate Gallery, and Harvard University's Peabody Museum. The 64-year-old Glasgow-born architect also designed Cornell University's performing arts centre and the Sydney Opera House.

Cesar Coll, a federal legislator from Mexico's right-of-centre opposition, the National Action Party, or Pan, said Thursday the government was trying to intimidate Castaneda. (AP)

Cuban prosecutor seeks terms: Cuba's state prosecutor is seeking prison terms of between 10 and 12 years for a group of political dissidents accused of conspiracy and rebellion against the country's communist government, state media reported on Thursday.

The Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said a court in Havana heard evidence on Wednesday against seven members of a group called the Democratic Integration Movement (MID).

The group were arrested at the start of 1989, after state news agency Aina said. (Reuter)

Cabral to probe: Justice Minister Bernardino Cabral said Wednesday he would investigate the cases of Brazilian police brutality denounced in a report by Amnesty International.

"The Justice Ministry does not accept and back (police violence, including violence to prisoners, and it will do everything at its disposal to oppose it," Cabral said in a statement.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, said Monday in a report titled "torture and extrajudicial execution Brazil" that uniformed police were blamed for 585 murders in 1989. (UPI)

Bogota security force shakeup: Colombia pressed on with a security force shakeup on Thursday and a newspaper reported that all 4,000 policemen in the drug centre of Medellin could be replaced to avoid infiltration by traffickers.

A police spokesman said Medellin police commander Brigadier-General Humberto Camero Maldonado was being transferred to the police national directorate in Bogota, the latest change in the command of the security forces before president-elect Cesar Gaviria takes office in August. (Reuter)

Cuba ready to aid Nicaragua: Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega said on Wednesday Cuban President Fidel Castro was ready to continue giving aid to Nicaragua, especially in the health sector.

We support the idea of Cuba's co-operation to help our people and we spoke about that with Fidel (Castro), who is ready to give us that help, especially in the area of health," Ortega told reporters at Havana airport before returning home after a three-day visit to Cuba.

Ortega, whose left-wing Sandinista government was defeated by US-backed candidate Violeta Chamorro in elections last February 25, held a number of meetings with Castro during his stay. (Reuter)

Brunswick in Paris: Ronnie Brunswick, who reportedly wants to quit as leader of a guerrilla army in Suriname, flew into Paris on Thursday and was placed under arrest pending efforts to find a country that will accept him.

Brunswick was arrested Monday night at the main airport in French Guiana, Suriname's neighbour on the northeast shoulder of South Africa, while carrying false identity papers.

He was freed Wednesday and took an overnight commercial flight to Paris.

In an interview with the French news agency, Agence France-Presse, Brunswick said he wanted a "visa for several days" to "explain" to Dutch authorities the situation of his community of bush negroes rebelling against the Surinamese government. (AP)

Mexico tank explosion, 1 dead: An ammonia storage tank exploded in northern Mexico early on Wednesday, sparking furious flames that killed one person, injured scores and forced the evacuation of about 3,000 people from a residential area, a Red Cross spokeswoman said.

She said the Red Cross treated 94 people for ammonia intoxication after the tank exploded in an ice factory in the town of San Nicholas de Los Garza, near the industrial city of Monterrey. (Reuter)

Peru relays Mozart to the world: Mozart's "Requiem" will echo solemnly through the ancient Inca fortress-citadel of Machu Picchu on Friday in a concert for world-wide satellite broadcast.

Flown in by air force planes, the Peruvian Symphonic Orchestra will play from the main square of Machu Picchu.

helped and hindered by highspeed technology and communications. But man's legacy is not in the temporal world but in the reflections of the spirit in the arts," David Rockefeller, an international adviser to the prize, said at a news conference held to announce the prizes.

Other international advisers include Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former Italian premier Amintore Fanfani.

Bernstein made his debut in 1943 with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then the 71-year-old conductor, composer and pianist and Emmy Award winner has written the scores for a number of Broadway shows including "West Side Story."

Fellini, one of Italy's leading directors who has a style that is instantly recognizable, has received four academy awards including the Cannes film festival's top prize in 1960 for "La Dolce Vita."

Stirling's works include the State Gallery in Stuttgart, the Cloro Gallery for the Turner collection at London's Tate Gallery, and Harvard University's Peabody Museum. The 64-year-old Glasgow-born architect also designed Cornell University's performing arts centre and the Sydney Opera House.

Cesar Coll, a federal legislator from Mexico's right-of-centre opposition, the National Action Party, or Pan, said Thursday the government was trying to intimidate Castaneda. (AP)

Cuban prosecutor seeks terms: Cuba's state prosecutor is seeking prison terms of between 10 and 12 years for a group of political dissidents accused of conspiracy and rebellion against the country's communist government, state media reported on Thursday.

The Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said a court in Havana heard evidence on Wednesday against seven members of a group called the Democratic Integration Movement (MID).

The group were arrested at the start of 1989, after state news agency Aina said. (Reuter)

Cabral to probe: Justice Minister Bernardino Cabral said Wednesday he would investigate the cases of Brazilian police brutality denounced in a report by Amnesty International.

"The Justice Ministry does not accept and back (police violence, including violence to prisoners, and it will do everything at its disposal to oppose it," Cabral said in a statement.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, said Monday in a report titled "torture and extrajudicial execution Brazil" that uniformed police were blamed for 585 murders in 1989. (UPI)

Bogota security force shakeup: Colombia pressed on with a security force shakeup on Thursday and a newspaper reported that all 4,000 policemen in the drug centre of Medellin could be replaced to avoid infiltration by traffickers.

A police spokesman said Medellin police commander Brigadier-General Humberto Camero Maldonado was being transferred to the police national directorate in Bogota, the latest change in the command of the security forces before president-elect Cesar Gaviria takes office in August. (Reuter)

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Taking a stroll in their best suit

The Prince and Princess of Wales stroll during the second day of racing at Royal Ascot June 20 just before having to take shelter from a cloudburst under an umbrella. (Reuter wirephoto)

LANCASHIRE

Rightists planned to kill Mandela, 11 questioned

JOHANNESBURG, June 22, (AP): Police questioned 11 whites in connection with a right-wing plot to assassinate African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk, officials said today.

The plan called for Mandela to be shot by a sniper at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport after he returns July 18 from his six-week tour of North America, Africa and Europe, the Afrikaans-language weekly newspaper *Vry-weekblad* reported.

The newspaper said the plot was

exposed by Jannie Smith, a former security policeman and National Intelligence Service agent, after he infiltrated far-right groups that included the Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order, Captain Peet Bothma confirmed that 11 white men detained for questioning had been released.

Capt Bothma said the 11 had been held under section 50 of the Criminal Procedures Act, which allows the police to hold a suspect for 48 hours for questioning.

If the police believed there was a specific case to pursue they would present the information to the Attorney-General, who may then decide whether to prosecute, he said.

"So far we don't have much, but there are certain leads that we are following," Bothma said.

He said security for government ministers had been "stepped up some time ago."

South African police do not normally protect Mandela.

The newspaper quoted Smith as saying De Klerk, South African Communist Party leader Joe Slovo, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Foreign Affairs P.W. Botha and Minister of Defence Magnus Malan were also threatened by right wing elements. Some prominent staff members of the government-run South African Broadcasting Corporation television station were also on the hit list, the report said.

De Klerk's government this year freed Mandela from 27 years in prison,

scrapped some apartheid laws and lifted repressive state of emergency measures in most of the country.

The Afrikaner Resistance Movement also planned to blow up power stations, eliminate members of parliament and poison the water supply to Soweto, a huge black residential area outside Johannesburg, the newspaper report said.

The plot to kill Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, was planned by former Nazi cap-

tain Heinrich Beisser, the newspaper said. It said Beisser, 77, is now a regional head of the right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement in South Africa.

The newspaper said Smith was told June 19 that he was to carry out the Mandela assassination using a rifle with telescopic sights. He also was asked to kill Slovo.

A council member on the right-wing Boksburg town council, T.J. Ferreira was among those arrested on Thursday, the report said.

Probe on Honecker opens in W. Berlin

WEST BERLIN, June 22, (AP): A prosecutor yesterday opened a criminal investigation against former East German leader Erich Honecker for allegedly harbouring West German leftist terrorists.

If convicted Honecker would face a maximum sentence of five years in prison. His secret police chief has also been targeted for a probe.

East Germany's recent arrests of most wanted members of the Red Army faction terror gang have helped confirm suspicions that Honecker's now-ousted communist government sheltered the fugitives.

The 77-year-old Honecker has denied supporting terrorists.

Earlier this week, East German Interior Minister Peter Michael Diebel said the harbouring terrorists was the "personal hobby" of Honecker and his ousted secret police chief, Erich Mielke. Diebel promised East German criminal probes of those responsible.

In the West German city of Karlsruhe yesterday, state prosecutor Gerhard Klass said he had opened an investigation against Honecker for alleged "obstruction of justice."

"We suspect that Honecker and his secret police agents hindered the pursuit of Red Faction terrorists sought in arrest warrants," Klass told reporters.

Klass said the suspicion involves "providing most wanted criminals a place to live, false identity, etc."

In a telephone interview later with the Associated Press, Klass said the maximum penalty ranges from "a five-mark fine to five years in prison."

"This does not involve only Honecker, it includes Mielke, and all the way down to the ones that knowingly gave them shelter," Klass said.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg state prosecutor said he has jurisdiction in the case because the original arrest warrants against the terrorists were issued in Karlsruhe.

However, the federal prosecutor's office, which is located in Karlsruhe and which issued the warrants, has said it does not plan to probe Honecker at the present time.

Asked if he really expected Honecker or any of the others to be extradited for trial, Klass responded, "That we can't even speculate at this time. We have to see what the investigation turns up."

Prosecutors expect to decide within the next month whether Bulgaria's disgraced communist leader Todor Zhivkov should face trial for corruption and abuse of power, the state news agency BTA said yesterday.

It quoted deputy public prosecutor Spas Muletarov as saying the deadline was set by law in the preliminary investigation against Zhivkov, who was ousted by reformist communists in November. (Reuter)

Romanians asked to co-operate

BUCHAREST, June 22, (Reuter): President Ion Iliescu has relinquished his post as chairman of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) in compliance with electoral law, the front said today.

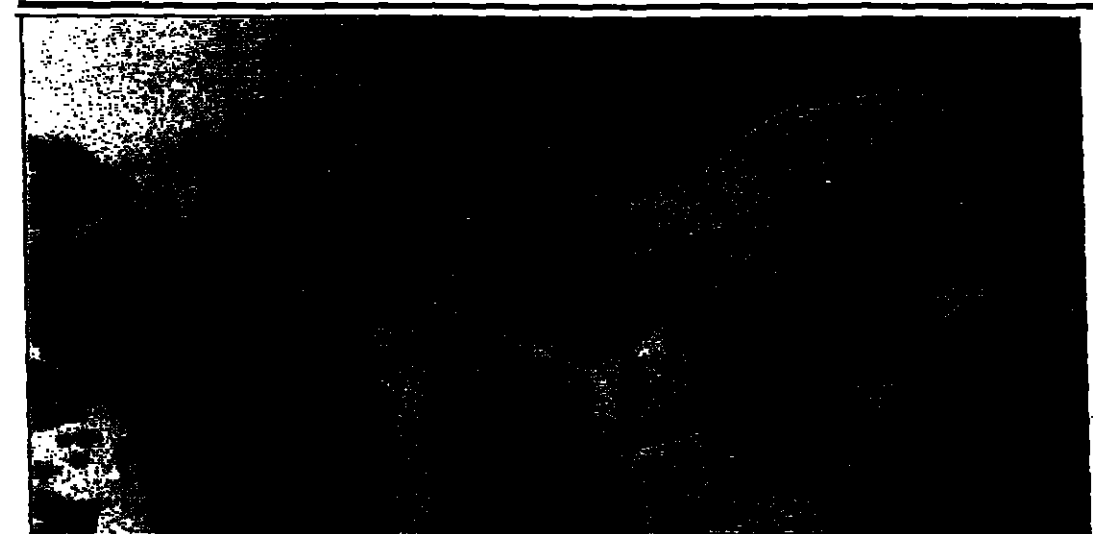
A front statement broadcast on local radio said the party would convene in the next few days to pick a new leader.

Romania's Army and security forces appealed to the public on Friday to get off the streets as fast as possible during any future outbreaks of violence by what they called extremists.

They said this would facilitate intervention by the security forces to quickly quell any fresh unrest.

"The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of National Defence call on the population of Romania to firmly dissociate themselves from any violence should it ever be initiated by extremists, and to walk out of the area where it may occur," the appeal said.

It said that only by leaving quickly could "the citizens allow the security guards outside institutions to intervene promptly and efficiently on the strength of legitimate powers they were given by parliamentary deputies."



Mandela waves the key to New York City, given to him by Mayor David Dinkins (right) in New York on June 20 as Winnie Mandela looks on. Mandela told the city hall crowd 'Apartheid is doomed.' (Reuter wirephoto)



Mandela and his wife Winnie riding in the 'Mandemobile', wave to the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who lined up in lower Manhattan for a ticker tape parade. (Reuter wirephoto)



Mandela greets singer Tracy Chapman (right) as Winnie greets singer Judy Collins during a concert rally at Yankee Stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mandela refuses to disown Arafat

NEW YORK, June 22, (Agencies): Anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, arousing the same ardour he's witnessed since his arrival in America, met with New York business leaders this morning to assuage their doubts about investing in South Africa.

Mandela spoke with 150 representatives of top US companies and other corporate executives at the World Trade Center before heading for the United Nations to address a global audience on his last day here.

He leaves Saturday morning for Boston.

"He was bringing hope to these people about the future, and they responded extremely well," Richard Leone, chairman of the New York City region's Public Trade and Transportation Agency, said of the business gathering. "There was a crackling excitement in the audience of this type."

Mandela told reporters after the

meeting that "the reception has been beyond my wildest dreams."

The outpouring of emotion since his arrival in the city on Wednesday will send him back to South Africa "strong and inspired," Mandela told the crowd, as New York City Mayor David Dinkins flashed an enthusiastic hand gesture.

Mandela started Friday with an early-morning stroll with Dinkins through a park near Gracie Mansion, the mayor's residence, where he is staying.

"As we enter the last decade of the 20th century, it is intolerable, unacceptable, that the cancer of racism is still eating away at the fabric of societies in different parts of our planet," he said. "All of us black and white, should spare no effort in our struggle against all forms and manifestations of racism, wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head."

Organisers said the stadium raised

more than 250,000 dollars for the ANC.

Mandela, triggering a wave of adulation through New York that some are calling "Mandela mania," attempted in a series of interviews on Thursday to allay fears that if his movement triumphed it would move to nationalise South Africa's wealth.

But he also sparked some controversy as he repeatedly and in powerful language refused to disown three world leaders often at odds with the United States — the PLO's Yasser Arafat, Cuba's Fidel Castro and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, saying they had aided his cause.

Meanwhile, Harlem, the black capital of America, gave him its heart on Thursday night and Yankee Stadium — where baseball is often a lost cause — suddenly had a winner.

Mandela gave rousing speeches to more than 50,000 New Yorkers crammed into the famed stadium and at least

100,000 more who crowded the main street of Harlem to cheer lustily and weep openly on the spot where black heroes have traditionally voiced their dreams.

The South African black leader left Yankee Stadium to the cheers of thousands wearing a Yankee jacket and cap, saying, "I know who I am. I am a Yankee." The stadium houses the team with the worst record in baseball.

In a free-wheeling television interview, attended by a wildly enthusiastic audience of 1,000, Mandela was asked if he would impose a Marxist or socialist government and said, "I don't care if the cat is black or white — as long as it catches mice."

In an interview with the New York Times, he said South Africa's National Congress was not wedded to socialism and supported state participation in the economy only to the extent it was needed to redress gross disparities in

wealth between whites and blacks. Mandela is expected to further discuss his vision of a South African future in a speech to the United Nations on Friday and in a news conference there.

Not even the Empire State Building was immune to the "Mandela mania" sweeping New York. It was lit up on Thursday night in the gold, green and black colours of the African National Congress of which Mandela is deputy president.

Harlem called itself the Soweto of America for the night as people grabbed every available inch of space on 125th Street at Seventh Avenue to hear him declare that apartheid was doomed.

Mandela, 71, showed charm and conviction in his television interview. He refused to disown Arafat, Gaddafi and Castro.

"One of the mistakes political analysts make is to think their enemies

should be our enemies. Our attitude toward any country is their attitude toward our struggle."

"Gaddafi, Castro and Arafat support our struggle to the hilt ... we identify with the PLO because they are fighting for the right of self-determination just like we are."

Mandela's next planned audience in the United States, the United Nations, has led the battle against apartheid in the international arena and demanded sanctions against South Africa.

Scheduled to speak Friday in the General Assembly hall, Mandela will be preaching to the converted if he urges the international community to maintain sanctions until South Africa abolishes apartheid.

Over the years, the 159-nation body has denounced the system of racial segregation. It has called for the release of Mandela and all political prisoners and the establishment of a non-racial democracy.

Walesa called threat to democracy

WARSAW, June 22, (Reuter): Lech Walesa's former comrades lashed out at him yesterday for his ceaseless criticism of the Solidarity-led government, and said he was becoming a threat to Poland's fledgling democracy.

Angered by Walesa's statements and actions against Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, they denounced his ambition to become a politically active president and accused him of using foul play in his campaign to win the post.

Bronislaw Geremek, Solidarity's influential parliamentary leader, rebuked Walesa for declaring "war at the top" in an interview on Wednesday and demanding to become president with powers to rule by decree.

"I think Mr Walesa does not realise that through the way he thinks, speaks and makes his declarations, he is creating a threat for this very fragile democracy which we have reached in Poland," Geremek told Polish radio. He said Walesa's demands for quicker political changes only amounted to a wish to become president immediately.

Walesa said on Wednesday he would be forced to become president and wield an axe to speed up reforms and stop Solidarity becoming a new power monopoly.

"I think it is more proper for a wood-cutter to carry an axe," commented Geremek.

New Czechoslovakia government formed

PRAGUE, June 22, (AP): President Vaclav Havel's Civic Forum Movement and its ally, which won elections two weeks ago, today formed the country's first freely-elected non-communist government in four decades.

The state CTK news agency reported agreement was reached at talks in the Slovak capital Bratislava that included Havel, Prime Minister-designate Marian Calfa and representatives of the Civic Forum, its sister movement Public Against Violence, the Christian Democratic Movement and the Democratic Party.

The incumbent government, also headed by Calfa, will resign Wednesday and the new government will be appointed by Havel, CTK said. Agreement came two days after the Christian Democratic Movement, which had first refused to join the new government, returned to coalition talks.

Kremlin plan rejected

German economic union treaty clears last hurdle

EAST BERLIN, June 22, (Reuter): The Soviet Union called today for phased troop cuts by the four World War Two allies in Germany and a ceiling on a future German army, but Western countries rejected limits on the new state's forces.

Diplomats said the United States, Britain and West Germany immediately opposed the plan presented by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to so-called "two-plus-four" talks on the international issues linked to German unification.

Shevardnadze's proposal, part of a full draft agreement that surprised

the other delegations, envisaged a 50 per cent cut in allied troops in Germany over the next three years.

The agreement, outlined in a text of his speech read to journalists, would shrink the future German army to a territorial defence force incapable of launching a war.

But Western foreign ministers countered that a unified Germany must have "absolutely the same rights as every other European country," the diplomats reported.

Charlie becomes a relic

WEST BERLIN, June 22, (Reuter): Checkpoint Charlie, the Berlin Wall border post that symbolised the cold war, was hoisted into history on Friday.

As a brass band played and foreign ministers of the four World War II allies watched, a crane lifted the prefabricated hut with its US, British and French flags and placed it on a flatbed truck to be taken to a museum.

Checkpoint Charlie went up in 1961 in the middle of the Friedrichstrasse Boulevard after communist East Germany erected the Berlin Wall to choke off a flood of refugees to the enclave of West Berlin.

"The checkpoint symbolised our conviction as allies that Berlin should remain one city and travel within it should be free," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a speech.

"We always hoped that one day Checkpoint Charlie would no longer be needed and now that day has arrived. At long last, we are bringing Charlie in from the cold," he added.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze attended the ceremony in a gesture of reconciliation with the Western members of the wartime alliance, Britain, France and the United States.

He used the occasion to propose that all the former allies' troops be withdrawn from Berlin within six months after German unification, expected to be sealed by pan-German elections in December.

Soviet and US tanks once faced off nose-to-nose at Checkpoint Charlie, and East Germans were shot at and sometimes killed in desperate dashes over the wall, turning the boundary hut into an incarnation of the cold war.



Checkpoint Charlie lifted

The Allied facility at Checkpoint Charlie lifted by a crane is removed in the presence of the ministers for foreign affairs of US, Great Britain, Soviet Union, France, East and West Germany, the mayors of East and West Berlin and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt standing in the front line during the ceremony in Berlin, June 22. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ceausescu brothers jailed for 15 years in Romania

BUCHAREST, June 22, (Reuter): The brother of executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was sentenced yesterday to 15 years' jail for attempted murder and instigating genocide, court sources said.

A military court in Bucharest handed down the sentence on Nicolae Andruta Ceausescu, 66, making him the first member of his family to be punished in the courts since the Stalinist dictator was shot on Christmas Day.

Andruta, an ex-general and head of secret police training, was convicted after a three-month trial and has 10 days to appeal. He was accused of killing several demonstrators and ordering his men to shoot at

crowds during the popular uprising that ousted his brother.

Judge Adrian Nitoiu, pointing out that Andruta could have been jailed for life, told Reuters: "The court verdict was an act of justice and not revenge."

Andruta, who bears a remarkable resemblance to his older brother, told the three judges: "I am the traitor's brother, but I am not guilty of the charges brought against me."

Romania abolished the death penalty soon after the dictator's execution.

Bucharest University students began a three-day strike yesterday in protest at arrests

and violence during anti-government demonstrations last week while a subdued capital prepared to mark Ceausescu's fall six months ago.

Students' league spokesman Radu Manolescu said over 2,000 students were boycotting studies.

At his side, a sobbing Leitiia Ploay said she feared for the life of her husband Stefan, a 26-year-old philology student, whom she had not seen since he was dragged away by the miners who crushed last week's demonstrations.

"The police say he was taken away yesterday, but they could not say where," she said.



Nicolae Andruta Ceausescu

Cabinet to complement democratic process

State, citizens urged to co-operate

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): The state and citizens have been urged to work side-by-side toward realising public interest.

Commenting on the formation Wednesday of Kuwait's 14th cabinet by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, a local daily said in its front-page editorial that the new cabinet comes to complement the democratic process of the country, which started with the June 10 elections of the National Council.

Wishing the new government all the success in its task, the paper thanked all

ministers who took part in the previous cabinet and were not included in new lineup.

Meanwhile, a Kuwait Radio commentary said yesterday that the main tasks of the new government, as laid out by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, are coherent with the new delicate stage Kuwait has just entered.

Sheikh Saad, when presenting the new government to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber, said the

government will focus on building the Kuwaiti man, develop his abilities and talents and prepare him for achieving a quantum leap in various fields.

He also said that the next few years must be marked with unity and co-ordination to meet the requirements of a decisive era of the local and national march.

The radio said the Kuwaiti people are looking forward to establishing a foundation of solid basis for a renewed parliamentary life based on genuine co-operation among the three branches of the govern-

ment.

"Forming a new government and the results of the National Council elections were met with optimism. We are walking toward a new stage characterised by firm determination for honest devotion to the national cause," the commentary said.

It concluded that "forming a new government came to reflect a deep belief (of the leadership) that co-operation with the National Council is the cornerstone for achieving the lively democratic practice and stability."

Level of education deteriorating: officials

Students showing no enthusiasm

THE decline of educational levels could be attributed to several factors which eventually could lead to negative effects. Among these factors are family problems, the absence of co-operation between parents and the school administration, lack of parental control on their children and related follow up in addition to other psychological parameters.

To highlight this issue a local daily interviewed a number of educationalists from the Kuwait University and the Ministry of Education in an attempt to bring this phenomenon to an end. In this respect, the relevant studies conducted by the Ministry of Education and Kuwait University indicated that the level of education was deteriorating. Dr Mohammed Owdeh, a professor at the Faculty of Arts at Kuwait University said that the level of graduates of the academic year 1980/1981 was better than those of the academic year 1989/1990. He said that the level in the past was better than at present and attributed it to changes incorporated into the curriculum and the weakness in the level of imparting education and the operations and methodologies of conducting exams.

Poor

Dr Nouriyah Al Khorafi, the director of guidance at the Faculty of Education, complained that the level of students in government schools could not qualify them to deal with the study in the university.

A lot of students had been transferred from the Faculty of Science to the Faculty of Arts as they were poor in the English language and their cultural level was very poor in view of the absence of developed curricula, she said.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the teaching staff was

subject to the necessary evaluation conducted by a specialised committee. She disclosed that the committee members were secretly asking students about their opinions on the teachers. Additionally, there is an academic committee which appraises the performance of instructors and other teaching staff.

Reasons

D. Abdulaziz Al Ghanem from the Educational Planning Department, said that the decline of students could be attributed to several reasons including the curriculum level particularly during the secondary stage, the absence of the necessary co-operation between families and the school administration, and the inefficiency of some teachers.

This issue, he said should be given the necessary concern particularly in the light of government intention to rationalise the teaching budget which will negatively affect the teaching process.

He suggested that the necessary training courses to sustain their efficiency could be organised. He also added that the high level of affluence prevailing in Kuwait had resulted in Kuwaiti students showing no enthusiasm for the educational process.

Follow up

Mahmoud Wagdi, a mathematics inspector attributed the decline of the educational level among students to the lack of co-operation between the family and the school and the absence of the necessary follow up by parents.

Najah Barqawi, another inspector at the Ministry of Education, has praised the ministry's curricula, clarifying that these had been simplified in comparison with the students' capability. She called on parents to show more co-operation with

the school administration.

Meanwhile, the daily interviewed the director of Ahmed Educational Area Abdullah Al Loqman who confirmed the importance of the readiness of students to deal with the educational process. He added that readiness meant the students' capability to channel their energies towards acquiring of knowledge.

He attributed the decline of the educational level among students to the reckless spirit prevailing among students in Kuwait and the social problems prevailing among families. Moreover, he said the decline could be attributed to the school administration, clarifying that these administrations should seriously follow up the educational process in their schools through giving constructive instruction to teachers.

The director of Educational Research Centre Dr Issa Jassim said that the decline in the educational level in Kuwait was an equivocal issue. He added that this problem was different from one country to another and it depends on the students' circumstances.

He added that the school administration should pay more concern to poor students from the beginning of each academic year. He added that the relevant families should be notified about the educational level of their children and they should be urged to co-operate with the school administration for the sake of their children.

He continued the importance of maintaining a good relationship between the students and their teachers in addition to intensifying the efforts of each school in holding of open meetings between parents and teachers.

Ghadeer tremor claims denied

WELL-INFORMED sources have been quoted as denying news reports published by a local daily claiming that the Umm Al Ghadeer area was rocked by tremor last week.

The sources said that oil company sites did not sustain any damage. He pointed out that all these news reports were mere allegations and void of any truth.

Sources added that these sites, which are close to Ahmad Al Jaber military base, might have been affected by the regular flying exercises which at times require the aircraft to fly low above ground surface level, which is basically an open desert area.

The sources stressed that this phenomenon had occurred on a number of occasions, and that if the event was a tremor the oil facilities in the area would have sustained noticeable damage.

Meanwhile, the head of the Kuwait Geology Department Dr Ibrahim Al Refai said that Kuwait is located on an open semi-stable area which is not amiable to seismicological phenomenon. The nearest area to Kuwait where earthquakes are known to have occurred and possibly mildly affected Kuwait is about 200 miles away, in the Iranian mountains of Zagros.

The director of the Environmental and Earth Sciences Division at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr Dari Al Ajami said that the Council of Ministers had recently endorsed a proposal for the construction of a special observatory for seismicological phenomenon. The proposed date for completion of construction is February next year.

Dialogue suspension may increase terrorism

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): Member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Front (Fatah) Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) said yesterday he regrets the decision taken by US President George Bush on suspending the dialogue with the PLO.

Speaking to a local daily by phone from Tunisia Abu Iyad said Bush's decision challenges resolutions taken by the recent emergency summit held in Baghdad this month. The US decision also does not serve US interests and will lead to freezing peace prospects in the region.

The US decision will also encourage the Israeli government on implementing its plans against Arab countries and the Palestinian intifada, he warned.

Abu Iyad stressed that suspension of the dialogue with the PLO will assist in escalating terrorist actions in the region, and therefore, the US should bear the consequences.

The Palestinian official called on Arab countries to take immediate action in accordance with the decision taken by the Baghdad Summit, adding that the PLO executive committee had begun an emergency meeting in Baghdad last night to decide on a reaction to the US decision.

The official denied reports that the PLO had set up a committee to investigate the sea-borne operation on Israeli beaches as some news agencies said, adding that "the US decision had stopped everything."

ضرورت ہے
بھلی کی بیماری کی فروخت کے لئے
دکان پر ایک ملازم کی ضرورت ہے
جس کا کام تجزیہ کرنا ہو اور پتے
کی ایک نوٹ کا کام کرنا ہو۔
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Wheat harvest festival

Under the patronage of the Education Ministry undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, the Hawalli Education Area held its second wheat harvest festival for the academic year 1989/90.

A total of 77 schools of various educational stages took part in the programme of contests and competitions for the festival. The total area cultivated with wheat was 11,485 square metres.

This contest is annually organised in response to the noble wish of HH the Amir for the growing of wheat in the country as a strategic food commodity. It is one of the means adopted to achieve local self-sufficiency and ensure food for all.

430,000 already arrive

Muslims converge on Makkah for pilgrimage

CAIRO, June 22, (Reuters): More than a million white-robed Muslims from around the world are converging on Saudi Arabia for next week's hajj to Makkah, but Iran is boycotting Islam's holiest pilgrimage for the third year running.

Saudi Arabia has threatened to deal harshly with anyone attempting to disrupt the hajj, previously hit by bomb and riot. Anyone found with political pamphlets or other banned material will be punished without leniency, it warned.

At least 430,000 people have already arrived in the kingdom by ship, plane and overland bus. They are being joined by hundreds of thousands more living in the country.

But the hajj, one of the world's biggest religious rituals, is once again being marred by a war of words between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"For years the hajj remained far from political and sectarian fighting until Iran began its inappropriate behaviour against the holy

sites, forcing the kingdom to take every precaution to guarantee the security of the pilgrims," Saudi Arabia's Al Riyadh newspaper said.

Iran is steadfastly continuing the boycott it has maintained since the 1987 hajj, when 400 mainly Iranian pilgrims were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during anti-Western protests.

The Saudi people and government will try to provide the pilgrims with all means that can facilitate their pilgrimage.

The Saudi directorate-general of passports called on all residents and visitors to carry identity papers, especially during the hajj.

It said pilgrims would be asked to produce their hajj permits at checkpoints along the road leading to Makkah.

"Those arriving for the pilgrimage have no right to work and anyone staying behind will be liable to punishment," the directorate general said.

US experts debate Saudi arms issue

WASHINGTON, June 22, (Kuna): A newly-proposed \$4 billion US sale of defensive armaments to Saudi Arabia was in the US and regional interest had only "minimally" threatened Israel's security, state and Defence Department experts argued on Tuesday.

Primarily at issue are 1,100 light armoured vehicles (LAVs), Awacs radar plane computer software upgrades, 2,000 TOW 2A anti-tank weapons and 24 non self-propelled 155mm howitzers.

All the gear, if the administration's proposal is okayed, would be provided to the Saudi Arabia National Guard.

The three senior officials, William Rope, Fred Smith and Jock Covey, were testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Committee members, most of them intensely pro-Israel, barraged the men with hostile questions about the sale's wisdom and appeared largely dissatisfied with the answers.

The administration witnesses

basically argued that because Saudi Arabia — whose stability they underscored — was in "a rough neighbourhood," the kingdom need and deserved defensive weapons.

They also stressed that the light armoured vehicles were not tanks in the customary sense; machine-guns constituting "the primary weapon on most of the LAV variants."

Only 10 per cent of the thin-skinned armoured vehicles would be equipped to fire TOW anti-tank missiles, the US officials stressed.

Rope, Smith and Covey pointed out that the LAVs would perform mainly an internal security role and would replace earlier armoured cars in the Saudi inventory — now about 15 years old and outmoded.

As to modifications of the kingdom's 13 US-made Awacs radar planes, the State Department and Pentagon experts told the American politicians they would "enhance their navigation and self-protection capabilities."

What is more, the US will reap

large financial benefits from the cash sale, they said, emphasising that the arms packages "will yield over 11,000 worker-years of employment in at least 24 states."

The Awacs contract alone will "generate additional employment in eight states," the three senior officials also affirmed, although none of the Congressmen inquired about such economic benefits to the US economy.

If the US refuses to sell the defensive gear, the Swiss and others would be more than glad to fill the void, the Pentagon and State Department officials cautioned.

Finally, Saudi Arabia has been instrumental in helping resolve crises in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Mideast and other regions, and thus deserves continued access to high-quality American defence weapons, they stated.

They were asked as well about a related issue — China's sale of CSS-2 ballistic missiles to Saudi Arabia.

What is more, the US will reap

A heatwave in the UAE strained fuel supplies and plants in Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, and Fujairah as consumers turned air-conditioners up to escape temperatures which soared to more than 40 degrees Celsius (over 100 degree Fahrenheit).

Saud meets Pope

ROME, June 22, (Kuna): Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal, who arrived here yesterday for a one-day visit, met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Later in the day Prince Saud met with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Al Ghazali who extended his visit to Italy for this purpose.

Informed Arab sources said that Prince Saud's talks with the officials at the Vatican will tackle the Lebanese crisis.

Preparations on for detergent conference

THE Arab Union for Foodstuff Industries based in Baghdad is currently preparing for the Fourth Arab Conference on Soap and Detergent Industries which is scheduled for the Tunisian capital next February.

According to an official, the conference aims at following recommendations adopted at the second and third conferences for Arab soap and detergent industries and the other seminars convened within its framework.

The conference to be organised in co-operation with the Tunisian Ministry of National Economy will concentrate on the reality of the soap industry in the Arab countries and recommendations to face the problems encountered in the marketing of the products of the industry.

The conference will be attended by representatives from the Arab ministries of commerce and industry, health and oil, in addition to delegates representing Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the companies concerned.

First session of National Council on June 27

ACCORDING to well-informed sources, the transitional newly-elected National Council is expected to hold its first session on Wednesday June 27.

The sources were quoted as saying that an Amiri decree will be issued calling the council into session following the formation of the new cabinet and the appointment of the 25 councillors.

The sources pointed out that contacts and wide deliberations are currently under way to agree on the nomination of a chairman for the council. The elected member is expected to be a personality who has occupied a number of senior official positions, with extensive experience and has distinguished relations both at home and abroad.

The sources believe that discussion during the first council session will centre on the exchange of views regarding the formation of sub-committees and recommended operation plan based on the present scale of priorities.

Lenoci here

DUBAI, June 22, (Kuna): Italian Foreign Ministry undersecretary, Claudio Lenoci, arrived in Kuwait yesterday after concluding a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During his stay in the UAE, Lenoci held talks with UAE officials on developing bilateral relations in all fields particularly in the economic and trade sectors.

Lenoci said that Italy, which will chair the European Economic Community next month, will launch a new peace initiative to activate the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

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ہم آپ کی خدمت کے لئے معذرت خواہ ہیں۔

پاکستان انٹرنیشنل ایئر لائنز کویت

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Election turnout indicates people support: Mubarak

Winners and losers will serve Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalefawi
Arab Times staff

ELECTION results of the Interim National Council proved that "the Kuwaiti people are one family far from what previously practiced in some diwanayas," according to the head of Kuwait's Boxing and Weightlifting Federation, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah.

Speaking on the turnout of voters, the official commented that it was a total

success beyond expectations. "The response of the people was remarkable which indicates the people's support of HH the Amir's wise policy," he said.

Sheikh Mubarak commented that despite the hot weather people turned out in large numbers to cast their votes. The official hoped that the council will be successful in solving all those problems related in sports. He commented that the previous National Assembly did not extend support or solve sports problems, and hoped the council will find

solutions for setting up the Olympic multi-purpose sports centre and swimming pool.

Sheikh Mubarak who praised the patriotic feeling of the Kuwaiti people wished that this council will include among its members, sports enthusiasts who have had "hands on" experience in the various fields of sports activities.

Ali Al Arboud, a municipality employee, said that this Interim Council attested the great confidence placed in HH the Amir's policy for Kuwait. He added that despite the unsuitable

timing of the election in the heat of June, voter response was very good.

Mohamed al Omairi, a member of Kuwait's Boxing Federation, said that forming the council will obviate any misleading trend that intends to disunite the Kuwaiti people.

Omairi added that winners and losers in the elections will stand together to serve their country.

Naji Al Ali, a businessman said that the turnout was very encouraging and proved the strong bonds among Kuwaiti

citizens. Ali added that voters were seen going in big numbers to cast their ballot.

On June 10, Kuwaitis went to polling stations located in elementary schools to vote for their representatives at the National Council. The four-year council is to review past parliamentary experience, according to the Amir decree issued on April 23. The Interior Ministry announced that 38,689 Kuwaitis cast their votes in the 25 constituencies, the figure constitutes 62.36 per cent of the total number of registered voters of 62,123.

NEWS IN BRIEF

KU to admit 3,200: Kuwait University will intake 3,200 students for the next academic year of 1990-91 of which 300 seats will be allocated for the second course, dean of admission and registration department Dr Sabah Qadumi said Wednesday.

He told a press conference that the university's deanship has endorsed the upcoming five-year plan and recommendations of faculties and resolutions of the university's council.

He added that high schools graduates who would not be enrolled in the university will find other opportunities in the public authority for applied education and training. (Kuna)

Medal for Sager: President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt granted the republic's first class medal to chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdel Azziz Al Sager in his capacity as board chairman of the Kuwaiti people's committee for fund-raising that built a universal educational Islamic centre in Egypt.

An official at the Egyptian embassy here told Kuna that President Mubarak also decided to grant medal of accomplishments of the first class to the committee's treasurer Youssef Al Flajj and members of the centre's board of trustees Muhammad Al Khorafi and Hmoud Al Nisf. (Kuna)

GDR exchange memo: Head of the information office at the Foreign Ministry Suleiman Al Menayyes yesterday met with East German Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Frank Sahling.

Menayyes told Kuna that Sahling handed him a memo, which included details and the way to exchange the East German Mark into the Deutsche mark, according to the deal concluded recently between Bonn and East Berlin.

He said that owners of the East German mark who reside outside the GDR can submit their applications of exchange to the financial institutions, in which they keep their accounts in East Germany, no later than July 17.

The exchange process will begin July 1. Menayyes indicated that the exchange form can be obtained either from financial institutions in the GDR or from the Deutsche Bundesbank of West Germany.

He said that in some exceptional cases, the exchange period will be extended until July 30.

The GDR embassy in Kuwait has expressed readiness to render advice to owners of the East German mark on the measures to be followed in the exchange process. (Kuna)

Sixth education meet: Kuwait will next September host the sixth regional consultative meeting on education for development in the Arab countries.

The director of the Unesco regional department for co-ordination Abdul Qader Al Attarash met in this respect with Tunisian State Minister for Education Mongi Bousmina.

On the other hand, the 5th conference of the Arab Education and Economic Planning Ministers will be held in Cairo on November 24-27.

The conference's agenda focuses on the implementation of the international conference documents on "Education for all" which was held in Thailand last March. (Kuna)

Cable from Khalifa: The Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla on the occasion of forming the new Kuwaiti government.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed sincere congratulations for the confidence extended by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad to Sheikh Saad for "reforming of the government to command Kuwait toward greater progress, flourishing, prosperity and development," the Gulf News Agency GNA said.

He wished success to the new government in serving the Kuwaiti people and the support of Arab and Islamic causes. (Kuna)

Gulf Air contract: Gulf Air said yesterday it had awarded a BD4.89 million (\$13 million) construction contract for a new headquarters to the Bahrain-based joint-venture Jalal Costain WLL.

The building, due to be completed in two years, will be financed by a BD5.5 million (\$14.6 million) loan from the Bahrain government, Gulf Air said in a statement.

The airline is planning to spend more than one billion dollars on 18 new aircraft over the next five years. Its net 1989 profit increased elevenfold to 27.7 million dinars (\$73.6 million).

Gulf Air is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi. (Reuters)

UAE-Britain commission: The 13th meeting for the UAE-British Joint Commission will be convened in the British capital July 9 to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf region and peace steps between Iran and Iraq.

The three-day meeting will be co-chaired by UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashed Abdullah An Nuaimi and British Minister of State at the Foreign Office William Waldegrave.

The commission will also discuss economic and trade relations between the two countries and co-operation in fields of culture, information and education.

The last meeting was convened in Abu Dhabi in 1988. A meeting will be held next week for various UAE ministries to study issues that will be presented at the joint commission. (Kuna)

Mellor in Manama: British Secretary of State for International Affairs, David Mellor arrived here last night on a several-day official visit during which he will hold talks with Bahraini officials.

Mellor's talks with Bahraini officials would tackle means of boosting bilateral relations in the security fields and issues of mutual interest, the Gulf News Agency said. (Kuna)

Cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

Research. He has published 40 papers and several books, including a dictionary of legal terms in three languages: English, Arabic and French. The dictionary contains 75,000 legal terms and took six years to compile.

The newly appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah said he will "exert efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people to maintain prosper-

ity of the country."

He said: "Together with the Kuwaiti people, we will preserve the unity and security of the country."

Sheikh Jaber, the eldest son of Sheikh Abdullah, the special adviser to HH the Amir, was the governor of Ahmadi before becoming the Capital Governor in 1988.

The last cabinet reshuffle took place in 1988.

Agriculture ministry a necessity: Noun

HEAD of Agricultural Co-operative Societies Union, Barrak Naser Al Noun has stressed on the importance of establishing a ministry of agriculture taking the responsibilities of agricultural affairs and fish resources in the country. He said that establishing the ministry is necessary in order to enhance this sector and develop it for the future.

He pointed out that international events have proved that countries having a strong agricultural sector are economically stable. He indicated that agriculture has increased in importance internationally due to the importance of ensuring food security.

He added that most developing countries are witnessing a dangerous race in ensuring their food security while at the same time their population expands. He stated that hundreds of millions of dinars are invested in the agricultural field.

He added that ministers, and officials have made several visits to Wafra and Abdalli agricultural areas in addition to HH the Crown Prince's visit to stress the importance of the agricultural sector.

He pointed out that after approving the comprehensive five years plan to the country during 89/90-94/95 which has included a number of important agricultural projects it became more important to reconsider structure of this sector.

Noun stressed that farmers, producers and officials in the agricultural sector exerted great efforts in creating comprehensive agricultural prosperity in the country. He stated that alterations made in the agricultural sector were fast and constantly rising. The number of farms and farmers have doubled several times. He indicated that currently high agricultural technology is being applied improve productivity.



Police College graduation

Under the auspices of the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, a graduation ceremony was held on Thursday at the Police College for the fifth batch of 783 graduated warrant officers.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Major-General Yusuf Al Khorafi on behalf of the interior minister. The director of Warrant Officers Institute at the Police College

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Al Fahed made a speech at the ceremony in which he called on all graduates to exert every possible effort to preserve national security and protect the property of citizens. The graduation ceremony was attended by assistant under-secretaries at the Ministry of Interior, the directors of the department and the relatives of the graduates. Major-General Khorafi distributed the certificates to the graduates.

Contemporary Gulf art

Major exhibition to be held in Washington

WASHINGTON, June 22. (Kuna) The US capital this summer is hosting a major exhibition of works by 17 Kuwaiti and other Arab Gulf artists; a showing perhaps most clearly defined by its grace and staggering diversity.

The show is unprecedented. Although they have showed widely in the Arab world and in Europe, never before have most of the gifted artists' paintings, sculptures, wood blocks prints and other material has been viewed in the United States.

For a variety of reasons, Americans generally are unfamiliar with Arab artforms and even with the calligraphy that anchors a good deal of modern Arab art.

The exhibit, "Contemporary art from the Arabian Gulf," consists of 65 works and runs through Aug. 19. There is no charge for visitors.

Kuna was present for the special press opening of the show, held in the splendour of Meridian House International, a prestigious old Washington mansion and focal point for students from round the world.

Most of the Arab artists who were on hand, appeared in their traditional dress.

Later Thursday saw the

delivery of a lecture by Bahraini artist and poet, Balqees Sabkha, whose deep-blue and red semi-abstract works are included in the show — as well as a private reception in the evening.

The exhibit is remarkable in many respects, the wondrous variety of styles and materials on view only a partial explanation. For in addition, the artists appear effortlessly to blend the traditional and the contemporary aspects of Arab life into a seamless whole.

Subtle

Possibly the most gifted artist, Kuwaiti Abdul Rasol Salman, uses sophisticated airbrush and other techniques in his oil paintings managing at once to express subtle shadings with colours which, however, are nevertheless surprisingly vibrant.

Like others in this show, Salman told Kuna he had studied in depth both Arab and Western works, and certainly the dual flavours of these two broad regions come through.

Salman was asked about inspirations for his multi-colour paintings, consisting in the main of ragged bands of colours that abut orebb into one another with

brilliant light areas in contrast. "I want to express the different stages," he explained. "My main inspiration was Arabic calligraphy, because it has the ability to change form, and you can play with the form a lot. From there, I developed my own style for painting and drawing."

Speaking of the cross-cultural aspects of art, Salman also offered that the European abstract school borrowed from Arabic calligraphy, and he in turn re-adapted some of the European design elements.

What is more, calligraphic elements "show the atmosphere surrounding living in the seasons of the year in our Arabic environment," the Kuwaiti master artist added.

Most of his colours are warm tones to express the desert temperature, and the white light regions in the paintings often describe the sky, perhaps with pale tones above birds of the region, Salman explained.

Techniques. Salman has painted for a quarter-century and trained Arab and Western art students in some of his intricate techniques. He hosts workshops and a television programme in Kuwait.

Fire at sponge factory

KUWAIT, June 22. (Kuna) Fire broke out in the factory and offices of Al Irawi Company for Sponge Industries destroying 95 per cent of its contents, a fire department officer said yesterday.

Lieut. Col. Musaad Al Mulla, director of Fire Brigades, told Kuna that there were no human casualties because the fire broke out when the workers were out for lunch and was discovered 15 minutes later.

He said a disaster could have taken place if fire reached chemical materials used in the industry, noting that firemen isolated this material from the fire.

PIA flight

PIA has announced that due to unavoidable circumstances their flight PK 216 which was scheduled to depart Kuwait at 10.20 pm on Thursday, June 28, 1990 will be delayed. Passengers are now requested to report to Terminal I at Kuwait International Airport by 8.00 pm on the same evening. Those holding onward confirmed flights from Karachi are requested to contact the PIA office to change their connecting flights.

From the courts

Life sentence for Firdous Rambo

THE Court of Appeal in its session with presiding Judge Kazem Al Mazidi committed Faraj Al Nasser to life in prison for killing a citizen.

The accused had been nicknamed "Firdous Rambo" by the media in the case which stemmed from the accused holding his family members as hostage in his residence at Firdous.

At the time of the incident, the accused who was working at the Ministry of Communications had shot at a colleague and escaped to his residence where he kept police at bay by threatening to kill his family if they tried to apprehend him.

During the attempt by the police to apprehend the suspect, he opened fire on security forces and a Kuwaiti citizen who was around the premises was caught a bullet which killed him instantly.

Longer sentence for car theft: The Criminal Court convicted a man who is presently serving sentence for stealing cars during 1989 to a further jail term for committing similar acts which were not investigated during the first trial.

The court was told that the convict had stolen several vehicles belonging to female nurses from the Maternity Hospital.

During investigations the convict confessed that he had broken into the cars by using a metal wire. He said that he also used bank automat cards and withdrew amounts from these accounts. He said all the money he obtained was used in building his new house.

Woman hashish trader caught: Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Department apprehended an Arab woman for trading in hashish.

The woman was for sometime suspected of dealing in drugs and her apartment was kept under

surveillance. On positive proof detectives raided her premises and caught the suspect red-handed in the act of selling hashish. The suspect identified as S. S. told the police that she had obtained the drugs through a taxi driver. Security police successfully apprehended the accomplice.

Further investigations are in progress.

Failed suicide bid: Security forces are investigating the case of a failed suicide attempt by a 17-year-old Kuwaiti girl identified as M. G.

Police sources said that the girl had taken an overdose of sleeping tablets with the intention of terminating her life. However, prompt action in transferring her to the hospital and skilled medical attention saved her life.

Death of newborn: A Kuwaiti citizen identified as R. K. filed a complaint with Rega Police Station claiming that his wife had caused the death of their newborn baby girl.

Investigations into the case are under progress.

Man acquitted: The Criminal Court acquitted a man charged with threatening and assaulting a police officer, because of a lack of positive identification. The court was told that the officer was on duty at the Arms Market when he spotted the suspects who was veiled at the time, entering a shop selling hunting guns. The officer said that when the accused left the shop he ordered him to stop and produce his ID. However, the officer was held up at gun point by another accomplice who took the officer's gun and his car keys and drove away in the car of the official.

The officer, however, borrowed the keys of the shop owner and gave chase, but was unsuccessful in apprehending the suspects. The man was arrested by other officers later.

Male student tops arts exams

By Qassem Naei

FOR the first time in several years, a male student won the top place in the Arts Section of the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination. Saleh Salem Al Dafiri broke a total monopoly by girls over the first 10 positions of the Arts section to win the top place securing 98.8 per cent marks. But he was followed by

girls in the rest of the top positions. The results were announced late last night. The Ministry of Education said that 7,786 students appeared for the examination and 5,226 of them passed with a passing rate of 65.4 per cent. This year's passing rate is much more than the 53 per cent of last year. The Science Section results are expected by midnight (Friday).



Hajji received at Mercedes

Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem, general director of the General Traffic Department paid a visit to Abdul Rahman Al Bisher and Zaid Al Kazami Company (Mercedes).

He was received by Bisher Abdul Rahman Al Bisher and a number of company directors. Brigadier Hajji commended the company staff for their positive participations and activities during the celebration of the Seventh Unified Traffic Week for GCC states. He also praised the highly distinguished role of the company in the field of traffic awareness.

He presented honour certificates to a number of company personnel.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BETTER to wear out than rust out — Richard Cumberland, English philosopher (1631-1718).

Priest goal materialising

Apartheid on the way out

LONDON. (Reuters): Three years ago Archbishop Trevor Huddleston said he was determined to see the end of apartheid before he died.

Now at 77 and after almost half a century of fighting the system, which he watched being established while serving as parish priest of a Johannesburg black township in the 1940s and 50s, he thinks the goal is in sight.

"It won't take 10 years — it'll happen in four — either that or there'll be a bloody revolution," Huddleston, former Anglican Bishop in Tanzania and Archbishop of the Indian Ocean, told Reuters.

"(South African President F. W. de Klerk is more anxious than anybody to have a very quick negotiated settlement leading to a constitutional set up which will be acceptable to all parties," said Huddleston, who as a "prohibited immigrant" has been unable to return to South Africa in 34 years.

The young black population is impatient for change, he said. "And if he (De Klerk) doesn't do it quickly his right wing is going to create mayhem... he knows that."

Campaigning

Although largely retired from his clerical duties, Huddleston is still campaigning relentlessly.

He is president of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement and chairman of the International Defence and Aid Fund, which defends political prisoners in South Africa. He heads the British-Tanzania Society, the National Peace Council and several other organisations.

He made the headlines last year after being joined by shareholders of Switzerland's largest bank UBS, when he told their meeting they should stop supporting the South African regime by buying its gold and lending it money.

He is in close touch with the African National Congress (ANC), whose leaders he knew well in Johannesburg. He travels frequently to the black front line states to speak, minister and campaign. "I don't separate religion and politics. There's no way you can," he said.

Now based in London in a modest flat belonging to St James' Church in the middle of London's busy West End, Huddleston is constantly nagging the British and European governments to enforce and maintain economic sanctions against Pretoria.

"The only effective way (of ending apartheid), if it is to be non-violent, is mandatory sanctions," he tells them.

He has put his case to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher repeatedly. "They (the British government) are just immovable," he sighed.

Britain relaxed its voluntary sanctions in February this year, saying it acknowledged reforms had begun.

Huddleston insists it was wrong to do so.

"Not a single (fundamental) apartheid law has yet been repealed. The whole of the apartheid structure is still in place," he said.

He recounted his last meeting with Thatcher a few years ago when she told him sanctions did not work. He pointed out that she had imposed them immediately on Argentina during the Falklands conflict and she retorted that it was a war situation.

Sanctions

"I said is this not a war situation? There are 100,000 troops in Namibia and South Africa seems to feel it is free to bomb and attack front line states and villages," he said, adding that the discussion got no further.

He has met consecutive British foreign ministers and has been to Dublin several times recently to lobby European Economic Community (EEC) ministers to keep their sanctions in place.

The crunch comes when EEC heads of state discuss the issue at their Dublin summit on June 25-26. Huddleston said, breaking off to answer a call from Commonwealth Secretary-General Sonny Ramphal who wanted to know of ANC leader Nelson Mandela's plans when he comes to London in July.

Huddleston was leaving for Spain on Thursday to advise the government — at its invitation — on South Africa and sanctions ahead of the EEC meeting.

A book on Huddleston's life, which he calls a picture book not a biography — he has refused to allow a biography to be written until after he is dead — was published on Wednesday.

It is based on a film about him called Makhalipile, Zulu for the dauntless one, but he is evasive about who gave him the name, saying only that it comes from a song written about him, sung by black schoolchildren as a farewell when he left South Africa in 1956.

Huddleston looks slightly shrunken in his baggy suit, faded purple shirt and clerical collar, his distinctive sharp features softened by age.

His room is crammed with books on fellow anti-apartheid campaigner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere alongside T. S. Eliot's poems and well thumbed Bibles. A recent picture of Mandela and an African crucifix adorn the walls.

Huddleston has written only one book, "Naught For Your Comfort," published in 1956, is an angry and bitter attack on apartheid's system of laws which he saw foster poverty, homelessness, unemployment and crime in Sophiatown, now part of the lack of Soweto.

"I just had to write it... nobody had actually written about what apartheid is like from first hand experience," he said.

A second phone call interrupted, bringing news that the European Parliament had just voted by 177 to 47 in favour of a resolution to maintain sanctions.

"That's marvellous," said Huddleston, grinning broadly.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1532 — England's King Henry VIII and France's King Francis I sign secret alliance against Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

1650 — Peace treaty of Nuremberg is signed between Holy Roman Empire and Sweden.

1672 — Holy Roman Empire and Brandenburg sign alliance to halt extension of French power.

1722 — England's Queen Anne orders French people in Nova Scotia to take oath of allegiance to her government within one year or leave.

1724 — Treaty of Constantinople between Russia and Turkey is signed, directed against Persia to secure Erivan for the Turks.

1757 — British under Robert Clive take Plassey, after the Nawab breaks alliance, and recover Calcutta in India.

1760 — Prussian army at Landshut in Bavaria, guarding passes into Silesia, suffers crushing defeat.

1848 — "June Days" begin in France when Gen. Louis Cavaignac suppresses Paris workmen in effort to close workshops and kill thousands.

1886 — Bonaparte and Orleans families are banished from France.

1934 — Saudi Arabia and Yemen sign peace treaty after six-week war.

1952 — US Air Force bombs hydroelectric plants in North Korea.

1956 — Col Gamal Abdel Nasser is elected president of Egypt.

1970 — Japanese students clash with police in Tokyo in huge demonstration against continuing US-Japan security pact.

1977 — US House of Representatives passes \$3.7 billion foreign aid appropriations bill with ban on any assistance to Cuba, Angola or Mozambique.

1989 — Muslim rebels fire 24 rockets into Kabul, Afghanistan, killing at least four people.

PLO vital to peace process

Suspension of talks negates results

WASHINGTON. (Agencies): The talks between the United States and the PLO, conducted in virtual secrecy for 18 months, broke the ice for both sides after 25 years of mistrust.

They showed Americans that the PLO was vital to the success of Arab-Israeli peace talks, and got Palestinians to accept negotiations with their arch-enemy, Israel.

But the results were so tentative that fragile that suspension of the talks may have badly damaged the fruit of the dialogue.

"We were just starting to drive the demons out of each others' eyes," said Richard Murphy, who was the leading Mideast official in former president Ronald Reagan's administration.

In one of his last acts before leaving office, Reagan authorised talks with the PLO, overturning a 13-year ban on direct contacts with the organisation. The decision was made after PLO chief Yasser Arafat agreed to US conditions by renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist.

For Palestinians, long shunned in the West as terrorists bent on the destruction of Israel, the talks provided a modicum of legitimacy.

And it showed Palestinians that US foreign policy, long allied with Israel, was not warped by its support for the Jewish state, Murphy said in an interview.

"On balance, we believe that these exchanges contributed to progress in the peace process," said President George Bush in announcing his decision. "I think things are better because we've had the dialogue."

Arranging

Indeed, US officials said last summer that they were closer than ever to arranging talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The plan advanced by Secretary of State James Baker would have brought together Israeli officials and Palestinians whose participation was approved by the PLO. The talks, to be held in Cairo, would have set up elections for representatives among the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

For the mainstream of the PLO — which is composed of eight factions, some of them radically opposed to the dialogue with Israel — the acceptance of even indirect talks with Israel was a major concession.

"We lose sight of the fact that Arafat did something we predicted no Palestinian would do," Bush said.

But Israel, refusing to negotiate with the PLO which it views as a terrorist organisation, balked at accepting some of the proposed Palestinian negotiators because of their anti-Israel activity.

The United States, attempting to cajole Israel into the peace talks, changed tactics last summer and appealed for help to Egypt — the only Arab country which has made peace with Israel.

Thus, Cairo became the main channel for US contacts with the PLO and the direct talks in Tunis were relegated to secondary importance.

From periodic meetings with a PLO delegation, the dialogue turned into what the State Department described as "contacts" between US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and a PLO official named Hakan Balaoui.

Balaoui and the PLO liked and respected Pelletreau, a fluent Arabic speaker, but they wanted more.

Under instructions from Arafat, who was being subjected to growing pressure from radicals, Balaoui demanded that the United States force Israel to make concessions.

The low-level dialogue was further strained when the United States blocked PLO attempts to join several UN organisations as an independent state named Palestine. The United States did not recognise the PLO's self-proclaimed state, saying such a move would destroy all hope of Israel coming to the negotiating table.

Besides advancing the peace process, the other US objective in the dialogue was to bring about an end to PLO terrorism. Pelletreau would often bring up suspected terrorist incidents with Balaoui, and ask for explanations.

And the United States cited results.

The State Department reported to Congress what while 30 border and rocket attacks were launched by Palestinian groups against Israel since December 1988, there was no evidence any were authorised by the PLO executive committee.

But ultimately, the suspension of the dialogue was prompted by the very obstacle that prevented direct talks with the PLO since its inception in 1964 — terrorism.

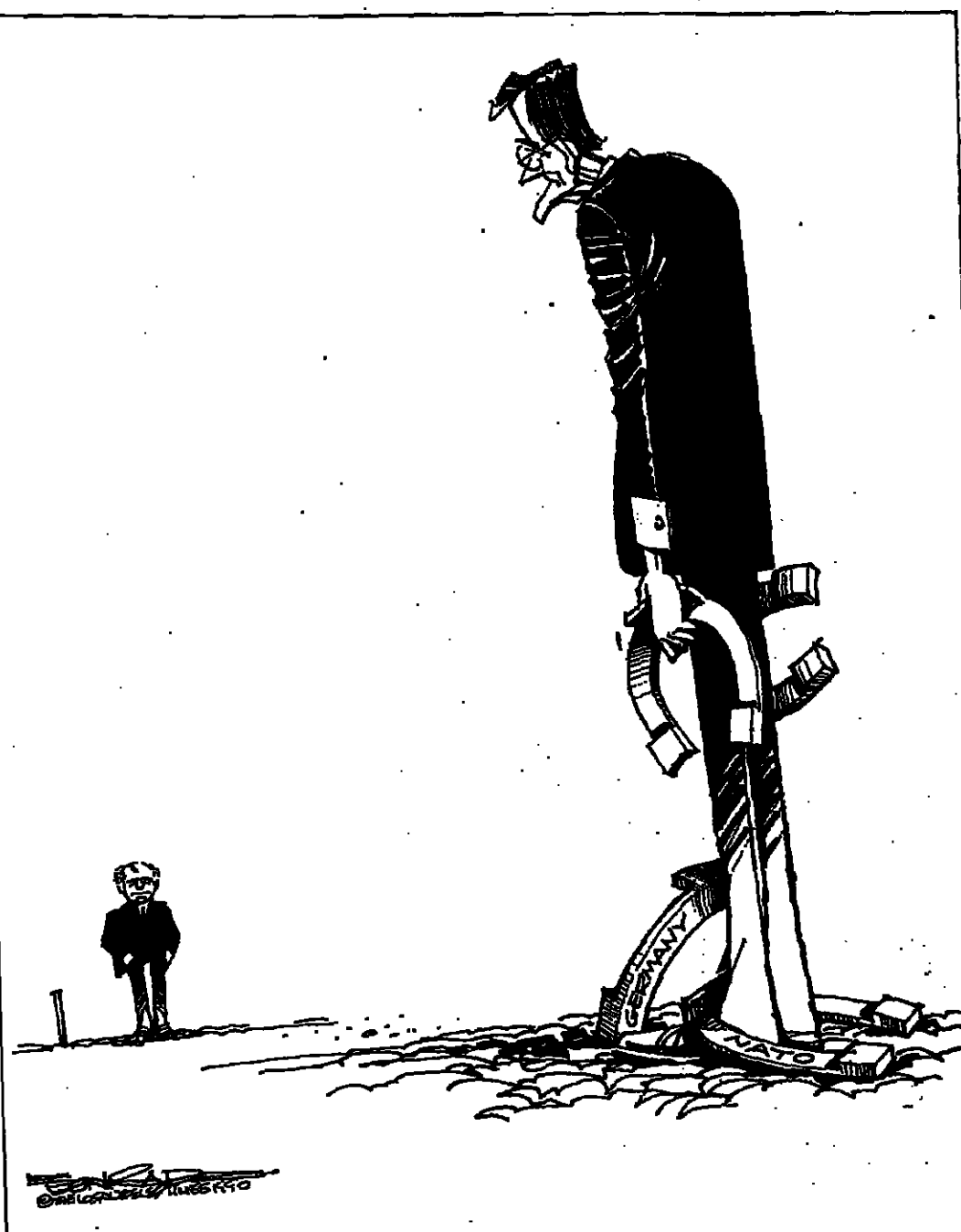
Bush cited the PLO's failure to discipline Abul Abbas, a member of the organisation's executive committee, who sent sea-borne raiders to attack Israel's coast on May 30 but was foiled by Israeli troops.

The United States cannot maintain contact with the PLO "as long as this terrorist act is sticking in our throat," Bush said.

"I have sent a letter to Prime Minister Shamir. I have very specifically asked questions that relate to seriousness about the peace process," Bush told reporters.

Palestinian moderates voiced anger and experts predicted a rise in militancy on both sides as Israeli officials braced for an onslaught of new US pressure.

"After using an iron fist against the PLO, the Americans will feel themselves free — perhaps even



forced — to use an iron fist against Israel," the country's biggest daily Yedioth Ahronoth wrote in an editorial.

Secretary of State James Baker is pressing Israel to accept US proposals for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and Bush wants to halt a further Jewish settlement in occupied Arab lands.

Shamir pays lip service to his 13-month-old proposal to let Palestinians of the occupied territories elect negotiators to talks on interim self-rule. But he apparently feels no urgency to respond to US proposals.

Pressed

"Mr Shamir is not a man to be pressed and the Americans know it," his chief of staff Yossi Ahimeir told Reuters.

The Israeli premier is even less likely to respond since his Likud Party, emerging victorious from a power struggle with the more dovish Labour Party, formed the most right-wing government in Israeli history 10 days ago.

The headline coalition is devoted to cracking down on the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising and increasing settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Now Israeli leaders are working to shift the focus from the uprising to the larger conflict with Arab states, trying to calm talks of another Middle East war and making modest gestures to Palestinians in the territories.

They have reopened the first of the universities and colleges closed by the army because of unrest and agreed to receive a United Nations envoy investigating widely condemned tactics to quash the revolt.

But these are hardly enough for Palestinians, the United States and even some leaders of the influential American Jewish community who are echoing the views of a US administration increasingly at odds with Israel.

Seymour Reich, chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations, met State Department officials on Wednesday who told him the next move was up to Israel.

"I think they probably have a sense because they have done what Israel has asked them to do... that Israel will now take the initiative in some direction," said Reich, known to the Americans as a conduit to Shamir.

The United States has yet to use aid to Israel, biggest in the world at \$3 billion a year, as a lever against the Jewish state.

Officials believe Bush himself may be behind demands for aid cuts by Senator Robert Dole, Republican leader in the Senate, where the lobby for Israel has clout in US policy-making.

Under strong pressure from Israel, American Jewry and the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Con-

gress, Bush said he was cutting the dialogue until Arafat condemned the raid and disciplined its perpetrators.

"This is formally the last nail in the coffin of the last chapter of Middle East peacemaking," said William Quandt, an analyst with Brookings Institution.

"It will strengthen militants on all sides. This is an invitation to more terrorism and we are afraid we are going to get more," he said.

Decision

"At any time the PLO is prepared to take the necessary steps, we are prepared promptly to renew the dialogue," he said at a news conference during a visit to Alabama. "In the meantime we would hope and expect that the peace process would proceed as intended."

But an Arab diplomat in Washington said a resumption in the US-PLO dialogue would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, even if the PLO met Bush's conditions.

"We will need a reassessment of the whole Middle East peace process," he said.

Quandt said he believed the Abbas raid was calculated to produce a cutoff in the dialogue and a return by the PLO from the olive branch to the gun.

The Arab League's Ambassador in Washington, Clovis Maksoud, said the decision would increase instability in the Middle East and raise the risks of war.

"It signals a penalty to Arab moderation, especially Palestinian moderation, and rewards Israeli intransigence."

Although contacts with the PLO on the American side were limited to the Ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, the dialogue quickly became central to a concerted push by Secretary of State James Baker to get Israelis and Palestinians from the occupied territories around the bargaining table.

But Israel and its supporters continued to snipe at the dialogue, while the lack of visible diplomatic gains weakened Arafat and moderate forces within the PLO.

When Israel's national unity government fell in March in disagreement over the Baker initiative, it was the signal for radicals on all sides to reassert themselves.

Since then, Shamir has put together the most right-wing government in Israeli history while on the Arab side Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has emerged as a new force and repeatedly threatened the Jewish state with mass destruction.

What lay ahead, another Middle East diplomat predicted was a radicalisation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories with Islamic fundamentalists coming more and more to the fore, aggressive Israeli actions to quell unrest and growing dangers of war.

N. Korea

Kim's unity dream sours

TOKYO. (Reuters): "Great leader" Kim Il-Sung, object of the world's most bizarre personality cult, is not used to hearing bad news.

Yet this weekend, fawning courtiers will find it hard to hide from him the unpleasant fact that North Korea is now more isolated than ever.

Forty years ago, on June 25, 1950, Kim launched the fratricidal Korean war and came within an ace of uniting the peninsula under his red communist banner.

At 78, he has lived to see his hated rival South Korea grow, flourish and outstrip his hardline communist state in almost every way. As the North's regimented economy has stagnated, the capitalist South has emerged as one of the world's major trading powers.

Olympic

Seoul successfully staged the biggest ever Olympic Games, despite Pyongyang's threats and urgent boycott calls. That 1988 triumph was sweetened by the presence of teams from China, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Kim's traditional allies.

Just this month, after a year of severe diplomatic reverses, Kim could only look on as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev openly conferred with "traitor" Roh Tae-Woo, the South Korean president, on ways of bringing peace to the peninsula.

The successive hammer blows — collapse of communist power in Eastern Europe, overthrow of Romanian autocrat and close ally Nicolae Ceausescu, finally the Gorbachev-Roh talks — have left the North Korean leader feeling embittered and betrayed.

His state news agency called the Soviet leader's meeting with Roh "unpardonable, traitorous bargaining."

However much he may be on the defensive, Kim has given little sign he is prepared to talk détente with Seoul. Both South Korea and its Northeast Asian neighbours know all too well that Kim still has one of the world's biggest standing armies.

Roh is adamant, his drive to open ties with North Korea's traditional friends is not aimed at isolating Pyongyang, rather at encouraging it to back away from confrontation and agree to tension-reducing measures on the peninsula.

Seoul allies, and North Korea's main backers too, insist that Kim must not be driven into a corner.

Contacts

The United States, regularly reviled in his press, is holding diplomatic contacts with its representatives in Beijing. Japan is offering dialogue, so far in vain. Chinese President Yang Shangkun said recently that isolating North Korea could make the division of the peninsula permanent.

While the Gorbachev-Roh meeting signifies the two countries virtually recognise each other, Seoul will not rush to formalise diplomatic ties out of consideration for North Korean feelings. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials say.

It is a far cry from the days of June 1950 when Kim's armies stormed across the 38th parallel. Seoul fell on the third day.

The Northern columns continued their devastating onslaught to such effect that the outgunned, inexperienced Southern troops were pushed back almost into the sea.

Almost but not quite. The United States hastily marshalled a powerful international force under the United Nations flag, only for China to send millions of "volunteers" to bolster the North. The resulting stalemate was recognised in the 1953 armistice that has kept the peninsula bitterly divided to this day.

Fortunes have changed dramatically over the years. Once wholly agrarian, South Korea has become an industrial giant, a producer of high technology, while the North's Stalinist economy with unfashionable emphasis on heavy industry has bogged down.

North Korea, with less than half the population of its hated neighbour, must spend a much higher proportion of its gross national product (GNP) on the military.

Budget

Pyongyang's latest state budget officially puts aside 12 per cent of GNP for defence. Seoul analysts believe the real figure is about 24 per cent.

While South Korea earmarks only five per cent of its GNP for defence, a 1989 white paper estimated that at current spending levels Seoul could dispense with US military support by 1996.

Pyongyang now faces demands from trading partners in the former communist bloc to pay for imports in hard currency. It cannot raise foreign currency loans after defaulting on previous debt repayments.

Without détente to bring a peace dividend, there appears to be little relief in sight for North Korea's beleaguered economy.

North Korea watchers in Seoul and Tokyo agree Pyongyang is unlikely to modify its policies until Kim, just triumphantly elected to a new four-year presidential term, quits the scene.

"Till the old man dies, there'll only be minimal change," said a senior Asian diplomat in Tokyo once posed in Pyongyang.

They are nowhere, the economy's in a shambles, the South is forging ahead, but they can't reverse anything big, either domestically or abroad, we cannot expect major movement while Kim's still on the scene," he said.

In the meantime, as North Korea's neighbours are well aware, the potential for a flare-up on the peninsula is ever present.

This week Japanese parliamentarians issued another warning over the fact that Pyongyang thought to be developing a nuclear power industry, refuses to agree to international safeguards.

Also this week, in Seoul, a woman who says North Korean leaders ordered her to blow up a Korean Air Lines plane in 1987, killing all 115 aboard, said that if Pyongyang felt cornered it could carry out more terror attacks, or even go to war again.

North Korean people have sacrificed themselves with a view to reunification of the fatherlands... if they see the possibility is rather slim in the future, they might try war."

Art Buchwald

Mayor tooting unnerves people

MAYOR Marion Barry's defense lawyer's strategy is to convince a jury that the reason the mayor has been charged with possession of drugs and perjury is because of his race. This is not the case. Most people tend to get nervous when their mayor is tooting suspicious substances.

The truth of the matter is that mayors have to make more split decisions than any other elected officials.

They also need to make them with a clear head — dope can slow you down.

Come with me, to a mayor's mansion in Gotham City, U.S.A.

Mayor Dubarry is reading the morning newspaper with a straw.

The phone rings and a voice says, "Mr Mayor, we have a warehouse fire on Conard and First. What do you want us to do?"

"Dispatch 4,000 snow ploughs — and if that doesn't work, use your backup garbage trucks."

"We don't have 4,000 snow ploughs, sir."

"Then order them from the Sharper Image catalogue," Mayor Dubarry tells him and hangs up.

He appears very restless and calls in his secretary.

"Do I have any grand jury hearings today? I feel like committing perjury."

"No sir. They're coming up next week."

"That's a pity. Maybe I'll lie to the press."

"You always feel better when you do, Mr Mayor."

The phone rings again. "Mr Mayor, this is the chief of police. There's a madman on top of the library, and he's screaming that he won't come down until you pay for the marijuana delivery he made to you in the Virgin Islands."

"Shoot him."

"You really want us to shoot him?"

"What choice do I have? I'm the mayor."

He hangs up and turns to his secretary, "do you remember where I put the Percodan pills?"

"I thought you put them in the 'In' box with the uppers."

"I better have a few while I design the plans for the new hospital."

"Mr Mayor, you know that Margaret Thatcher is coming this morning for a visit."

"I wonder if she snorts?"

"I don't think so. By the way, the State Department protocol people have requested that you do not giggle when you give her the key to the city."

Drugs

"They've got a nerve telling me what to do," the mayor says. "Do I tell Margaret Thatcher how to run the Eiffel Tower?"

"Are you finished cooking with this white powder?"

"Of course I'm finished. I can take it or leave it."

"Then I'll put it away."

"No, leave it."

"Mr Mayor, there is a subway derailment and all traffic in the city is stopped. The man responsible was on drugs."

"How sad. Let's give him another chance."

"Sir, do you think you should be sitting on the floor in the lotus position when Prime Minister Thatcher comes into the room?"

"She rules India, she should be used to it."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

JANUARY 1990

US fears Iraq on chemical weapons

PARIS, June 22 (Reuters): A senior US official said yesterday that Washington was now more concerned about Iraq than Libya in chemical arms proliferation.

"Iraq now surpasses Libya in our concerns because Iraq has a much bigger production base than Libya and has demonstrated that it can make these weapons and use them," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

He was speaking to journalists after a meeting of the "Australia group" of Western countries, formed in 1985 to halt the spread of chemical weapons.

"What's more," the official added, "is that Iraq's President (Saddam Hussein) has threatened to use them."

He was referring to a running dispute between Washington and Baghdad which followed a threat by the Iraqi leader in April to "burn half of Israel" with chemical weapons if it attacked Iraq.

The official said Washington believed Libya was "probably engaged in limited production" of chemical weapons at its plant at Rabta, south of Tripoli, despite a fire there in March which he said "was not a significantly damaging event."

Libya denies the plant makes weapons and says it produces pharmaceutical products.

The US official said a new worry was the spread of biological weapons for which the United States believed development programmes now existed in about 10 countries.

He said the figures had doubled in four years and that Washington believed the US countries which recently entered the biological warfare pact were in the Middle East.

"This is also of particular concern because the use of chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East is not inconceivable," he added.

The Australia group, made up of 20 countries, meets behind closed doors every six months, mostly to exchange technical information about how to monitor the export of chemical agents used in the making of chemical weapons.

Production of chemical weapons has expanded in the past three to four years, mainly in the Middle East, posing a new threat in a region where the risks of war are high, a senior US official said yesterday.

The official, speaking on condition he not be identified by name, also said the notorious Rabta plant in Libya was likely still engaged in limited production of chemical weapons.

He refused to elaborate on rumours that Libya was building a second chemical weapons plant.

The official said mounting evidence about expanding biological weapons programmes prompted the 20-nation Australia group to expand its mission to include biological arms.

The US official said the delegates, who meet every six months, also discussed controlling shipments of "precursor" chemicals used in building chemical weapons.

The official refused to name countries reportedly engaged in production of biological weapons, which are based on bacteria, viruses and other living organisms. But he said they are mainly nations which already have sophisticated chemical and ballistic weapons programmes.

"In some cases, we know countries have a biological weapons programme, but we're not sure what they're growing," he said.

Iraq has more kinds of chemical weapons, has used them in the Iran-Iraq war and threatened to use them against Israel, the official noted.

The Rabta plant in Libya, damaged in a fire several months ago, is "probably engaged in limited production" of chemical weapons, the official said.

"I think there is a fair consensus among members of the (Australia) group that it was not significantly damaged, and the probability the event was staged is very high," he said.

Libya denies repeated claims, including court testimony by the West German manufacturers of the plant, that the plant is used to manufacture chemical arms.

Libya says the plant is used to make pharmaceuticals.

Israeli colonel testifies beating Palestinians was norm

TEL AVIV, June 22 (AP): An Israeli colonel accused of ordering soldiers to beat the limbs of Palestinians testified today that beatings were "part of the accepted norm in that period."

Testifying in his own defence, Col. Yehuda Meir told three military judges that his superiors did not question the beatings because "there was nothing special in it... there was nothing out of the ordinary."

Meir testified yesterday that former defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave orders in January 1988 to break the bones of Palestinian inciters as punishment.

Rabin rejected Meir's contention in an interview today on Israel radio. He said he ordered the army to beat rioters to get them under control and to use force, including beatings, against those who resisted arrest.

"A person who carried out these orders would not be put on trial," Rabin said.

Meir, 37, is being court-martialled on seven felony counts. The most serious charge, causing bodily harm with malicious intent, carries a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment.

Military prosecutors say soldiers acting on Meir's orders arrested about 21 Palestinians in two West Bank villages in January 1988, took them into nearby fields and beat the bound and gagged detainees with rifles and clubs.

At least 12 Palestinians from the villages of Hawara and Beita were reported to have had their limbs broken in the two incidents.

Israeli military authorities introduced beatings as a method to deter Arab demonstrators a month after the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987.

Meir admitted ordering beatings but said he now feels abandoned by Rabin and by Maj. Gen. Amran Mitzna, the former military commander of the West Bank and Meir's former commanding officer.

"I feel like they abandoned me and threw me to the dogs," Meir told the judges. He began to cry minutes later and asked for a recess.

Mitzna testified last month that beatings were not to be administered as punishment, but were solely a means to disperse protesters and control detainees. He was a prosecution witness.

Meir resumed his testimony after a 30-minute break, again saying he was disappointed that Rabin and Mitzna did not support him.

Meir accused his superior officers of "double bookkeeping." He said they spoke "in two different directions with two different voices" — one for "those who have to do the work" and the other for the news media, the US government, the legal system and left-wing Israeli public officials.

Police imposed a curfew today on occupied Jerusalem's Silwan quarter in a rare move after a Palestinian youth was shot to death during clashes with police, officials said.

Paramilitary border police fired tear-gas and live ammunition to disperse rioters who blocked roads and threw stones in the second violent demonstration since a similar death there Wednesday, Arab witnesses said.

Officials at occupied east Jerusalem's Mukassas hospital said police shot Zuhri Ibrahim Shuwaki, 17, in the head. They also reported that they treated three people for tear-gas inhalation and one for a cut on his forehead. (AP)

A special UN envoy, Jean-Claude Aime, arrived in Israel yesterday for an investigative visit to the occupied territories.

"I'm here on the instructions of the (UN) secretary-general to discuss the situation in the occupied territories," Aime said at the Ben-Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

File picture from May 30 showing Israeli soldiers next to a boat used by commandos from Palestine Liberation Front faction in a foiled raid on the Israeli coast. Troops killed gunmen and captured 12 in the two-pronged assault. (Reuters wirephoto)

President George Bush announcing the suspension of dialogue with the PLO at a press conference on June 20 at the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Beirut airport 'working by candlelight'

BEIRUT, June 22, (AP): The immigration officer at Beirut international airport held a passport up to the flickering candle on his desk, squinting to check the photograph of the traveller standing in the darkened terminal hall.

The airport's only functioning generator had broken down, as it often does.

Airport personnel worked by candlelight, checking in passengers with pens instead of computer terminals and inspecting bags by hand because the electronic scanning devices were out.

Pilots landed and took off without radio contact from the tower because of

the power outage, until some have the bright idea of hooking up the tower to a small generator in the terminal restaurant.

Beirut airport, the busiest in the Middle East before Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975, still manages to function despite power cuts, shellfire, bombs and a chronic lack of electronic equipment.

The airport's radar was destroyed in air raids during Israel's 1982 invasion. Since then aircraft have landed with the aid of a radio beacon at the American University of Beirut.

Ghassan Abu Ghazali, a pilot for

Beirut-based Middle East Airways, noted: "Not having a functioning radar isn't that big a problem. You should see some of the airports in Africa Beirut's better than some of them. It's serviceable."

Shellfire has caused considerable damage and the airport was closed down for six months last year because of fighting.

That cost MEA around \$41 million. It has survived the 15 years of warfare through a combination of astute management and dogged refusal to die.

Planes that land at night have to do so with the beachside runway lit by car

headlights. The cables for the runway lights were stolen years ago.

Abed Al Menhem Shehadeh, director-general of civil aviation, has the unenviable job of restoring the airport in Muslim west Beirut to meet international safety and technical requirements.

He said foreign airlines that once used Beirut have been approached to return. But so far none have made any commitment because of the uncertainty surrounding Lebanon's future.

MEA executive vice-president Khaled Musfi acknowledged that Beirut is no longer the Middle East's

aviation hub and is unlikely to be so again, but he reckons there is still a market out there for MEA.

Up to 2,500 travellers use the airport daily with an average of 22 flights landing or taking off. Before the war, there were more than 100 flights a day and around 50,000 passengers.

Shehadeh said he has asked the Lebanese government for 18 billion pounds (\$8 million) to refurbish Beirut airport. Given the fractious state of Lebanon's economy, he's unlikely to get it.

But even if he did, it will take more than sprucing up the dilapidated, war-

battered airport to wipe out its notoriety as a hijacker's paradise.

Five Westerners were kidnapped on the highway leading to the airport between May 22, 1985, and Jan 17, 1987. Dozens of MEA employees, most of them Christians, have been killed or kidnapped.

Washington branded the airport a terrorist haven and banned MEA and its sister cargo line, Trans-Mediterranean Airlines, from US airspace and airports after TWA jetliner was hijacked in June 1985 and a navy diver killed at the airport, where militiamen joined the hijackers.

Frightened aid groups pull out of Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 22, (AP): Afghan fundamentalists who have turned their Islamic fervour on foreign relief agencies have forced at least one humanitarian aid group to close down a large-scale reconstruction programme in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Attacks on Western aid groups during the past several months are also threatening an ambitious \$1.2 billion UN programme to reconstruct war-devastated Afghanistan, relief workers said Thursday.

"Maybe they don't want us here any more," said Salina Farman, a project officer of Acbar, an organisation representing more than 50 aid groups, most of which are involved in rebuilding Afghanistan.

The Australian-based Shelter Now International decided to shut down 27 reconstruction projects inside Afghanistan after being attacked several times by Muslim fundamentalists shouting anti-West slogans.

"We are on the verge of pulling out all together," said Mike Heil, Shelter Now projects director.

However, Shelter Now will continue small-scale aid work in refugee camps around Peshawar until its Australian headquarters decides its fate.

Last week, two Afghan refugees opened fire on Shelter Now's director, Thor Armstrong, pumping 12 bullets into his vehicle. He received minor injuries. His young son, who was accompanying him home from a shopping trip in Peshawar, was unhurt.

Armstrong, who is American, left with his family on Wednesday for the United States, where he will run the organisation's US interests.

"It would have to be charged drastically inside Afghanistan for us to start up again," Heil said.

After Soviet troops ended nine years of direct intervention in Afghanistan in 1989, the United Nations launched an ambitious plan to rebuild the country, devastated by 12 years of fighting.

The reconstruction programme was to pave the way for an estimated five million Afghan war refugees living in Iran and Pakistan to return to their homeland. But now, however, Muslim insurgents, who have waged their war against Kabul's Soviet-style government from Pakistan, have degenerated into feuding warlords.

Radical fundamentalists among the guerrilla resistance have turned their fire once reserved for the Soviet Union on Western countries and foreign aid groups.

"Even the United Nations is getting the heebie geebies (nervous)," said Forman. "Seven months ago, I wouldn't have thought anything of going inside Afghanistan but now I don't know whether it's worth the risk."

Western sources said 38 members of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami, or Party of God, group were arrested after April's brutal attack on Shelter Now's facilities in the sprawling Nasir Bagh refugee camp.

A mob of 5,000, urged on by screaming Islamic clerics who charged Shelter Now workers with corrupting their women, ransacked offices, burned buildings and destroyed equipment and trucks. When the rampage was over, the mob had caused more than one million dollars damage.

Shelter Now's construction factory in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province was also destroyed by Afghan fundamentalists and a guard was seriously hurt.

Hans Kuitert, an Acbar spokesman, said several aid groups are planning to move out of Peshawar and relocate their headquarters in Islamabad, the nation's capital.

"They will have only Afghan-managed field offices inside the camps and nearby," he said. "It started with women's programmes but that's just the peg they were using to go after Western aid groups," Kuitert said.

Diplomatic sources say fundamentalists within the guerrilla leadership have launched an anti-West campaign to counter what they see as a US-orchestrated attempt to put moderate resistance leaders into power.

But none of the former statesmen now living in Europe and the United States were willing to talk on the record until progress had been made.

Some questioned whether a middle ground existed among the seven leaders, who have traded accusations ranging from theft to murder.

Rival Christians clash in E. Beirut

France envoy mediates

BEIRUT, June 22, (AP): Rival Christians forces clashed with artillery and mortars in east Beirut early today, killing a young girl and wounding three other women, as French envoy Francois Scheer strove to mediate an end to the 41-2-month-old mini-war.

Police reported that the girl was killed and the women, one of them the girl's sister, wounded by mortar fire from rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops.

The fatalities were in the Sin El Fil neighbourhood of Beirut's Christian sector. The district is held by militiamen of Christian warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces.

The fighting died down around 4 am (0100 GMT) and police said all roads linking the disputed sectors of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kms) Christian enclave running north from Beirut were safe for civilian traffic.



Pope John Paul talks with Prince Saud Al Faisal (centre) and with Algerian Foreign Minister Ghaoui (left) during an audience June 21. (Reuters wirephoto)

Raid a pretext

(Continued from Page 1)

ser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism.

Unlike some radical Palestinian groups, the PLO communiqué, issued late on Thursday, did not call for reprisals against the United States.

Washington has warned its citizens to exercise utmost caution in the region after one Palestinian group, Fatah uprising, urged Arabs to punish Americans world-wide for breaking off the dialogue.

Bush had been under pressure from Israel to end the talks with the PLO, seen by the Jewish state as dedicated to its destruction.

The pressure increased after the May 30 raid by the Palestine Liberation Front, a small faction within the PLO.

Bush demanded Arafat condemn the attack and punish the group's leader, Mohammed Abbas, as the price for continuing talks.

The PLO statement said: "The Palestinian leadership took a clear and responsible attitude towards the raid, which the US administration used as a reason to justify its decision to suspend dialogue with PLO."

"The PLO has stressed that neither it nor any of its organiza-

tions or forces were responsible for the raid."

Arafat chaired the meeting. The communiqué said the executive committee reaffirmed again its commitment to PLO "condemning terrorism in all its forms."

Charging that Washington was biased in favour of Israel, the PLO called for world help in convening an international conference on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Israel opposes any such conference, insisting on dealing only with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO statement said Bush's action would embolden the new Israeli government — the most right wing in Israel's history — of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"It will push the rulers of Israel to continue their aggressive policies, crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories."

The US move "... will liquidate all chances for peace, and support and encourage the aggressor and terrorist goals of the new Shamir government," it added.

By police count, at least 1,044 people have been killed and 2,789 wounded since Aoun and Geagea began fighting for mastery of the enclave Jan 30.

The two sides have battled each other to a standstill in the inconclusive showdown. The fighting has forced more than 400,000 of the enclave's 1 million inhabitants to flee to safer areas or leave the country.

Scheer was scheduled to hold talks today with Aoun to brief him on the attitudes of Syrian and Lebanese leaders to France's six-day effort to implement an Arab League-brokered peace pact to end Lebanon's 15-year-old many-sided civil war between Christians and Muslims.

Syria and France have reaffirmed their support for an Arab-brokered peace plan that recognises Syria's role in Lebanon and upholds the authority of Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi. French and Syrian officials said on Thursday.

The renewed backing for last year's Taif agreement seemed to be a rejection to a Vatican proposal to amend the plan to allow dissident Lebanese Christian leaders to join Hiriawi's government.

An Arab committee on Lebanon met in France today to review latest efforts to end the 15-year civil war.

The committee — the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco — was preparing for talks on Saturday with the French government which is trying to persuade warring Christian leaders to accept the Syrian-backed Beirut government.

"We have decided to make a tour of European countries and have contacts with them," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told Reuters.

The presidents of Syria and Lebanon, after a surprise meeting on Wednesday, rejected a Vatican peace plan for Lebanon and said an Arab-brokered peace plan was the only solution to the country's 15-year-old crisis.

The Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Foss said yesterday a reshuffle in his government is necessary and hinted an imminent solution for the Lebanese crisis.

The diplomats, and ruling party members speaking in private, said the best prospect for the Tunisian government was to hope that the Islamic Salvation Front would run into trouble managing municipal affairs or that it would frighten secularists into forming a united front against it.

"If these people (the Salvation Front) have the same problems as others in dealing with housing and jobs, then the Tunisians won't be slow to point out that there's no magic wand," one diplomat said.

A ruling party member said one scenario doing the rounds in Tunisia was that the Algerian Islamists would provoke a backlash by using their new powers as municipal rulers to close down bars and restaurants which serve alcohol.

There is nothing for the PKK to do with us ... we have seen none of them," said Aktas, whose monastery near Midyat was the site of the church's patriarchate for 650 years until 1983.

Aktas is one of 18 Metropolitan bishops stretching from the United States to India tending a flock totalling some 3.5 million people, also known as Jacobite Christians.

There is no evident religious tension in Midyat, where some 2,500 of the 40,000 inhabitants are Syrian Christians, but the two communities generally live in different areas.



Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi (left) during surprise talks in Damascus on June 20 with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad on fresh Vatican and French initiatives to solve the Lebanese crisis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tunisia wary of Algerian Islamists

TUNIS, June 22, (Reuters): Tunisia, tiptoeing towards democracy, is keeping a wary eye on neighbouring Algeria and hopes Muslim fundamentalists who won local elections there will blot their copybook, political and diplomatic sources say.

The outcome of Algeria's experiment in multiparty democracy is crucial to the future of a similar but much slower experiment in Tunisia, where the Islamic movement is the main challenge to the Democratic Constitutional Assembly (RCD) Party which has ruled the country since independence.

Comparisons are inevitable, especially as Tunisia held local elections only two days before those in which Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front won 54.3 per cent of the popular vote, almost twice as many as the ruling National Liberation Front.

In Tunisia, the unrecognised Nabhth (renaissance) movement, the main Islamic group, joined legal opposition parties in a boycott of the June 10 elections, on the grounds that in the present political climate they could not be free and fair.

While Tunisian opposition leaders heaped praise on the Algerian people and government for the conduct of the elections next door, Tunisia's League for the Defence of Human Rights said the vote at home made no contribution to the democratic process.

Tunisian ministers have made no comment on the Islamist victory in Algeria but the secretary-general of the ruling party, Abdurrahman Zouari, repeated the official line that there was no place in Tunisia for a party based on religion.

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Saudis warn political pilgrims

Saudi Arabia says it will deal harshly with haj pilgrims found in possession of political pamphlets or other banned material.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), received in Nicosia on Wednesday, quoted the Interior Ministry as saying: "Violators will be prosecuted and deported, while those found with banned material will be severely punished without any leniency."

Some pilgrims, it said, were carrying books, pictures or publications "with political, propaganda or ideological aims." (Reuters)

Turkish statuette stolen: A priceless 7,500-year-old statuette of an Anatolian goddess has been stolen in Vienna as it was readied for display in a show of Turkish museum pieces.

The mother Kyde piece was found missing on June 17 while preparations for the exhibition in Vienna's Kunsthistorisches history museum were being made. Turkish Ministry of Culture spokesman Hilmi Tutar said. The goddess was revered as chief deity of fertility and nature in Anatolia and adopted by various civilisations throughout the ages. (Reuters)

Rebels report military victory: Rebels in northern Somalia said Friday they had killed more than 200 government soldiers in an attack on an army column near Hargeisa 540 miles (865 kms) north of the capital Mogadishu.

The insurgent Somali National Movement Radio, monitored in Nairobi, said they wounded 38 soldiers in the attack in Bedweran, 25 miles (49 km) east of Hargeisa.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the rebel claims. (UPI)



Welcome French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement (centre) and his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa listen to the national anthem during a welcome ceremony at the Defence Ministry in France. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Democracy forum' Algerian intellectuals to form

ALGIERS, June 22, (Reuters): More than 100 Algerian doctors, lawyers and intellectuals met yesterday to discuss the formation of a "democracy forum" to expand and defend the country's fledgling multi-party system.

Prompted to act by last week's sweeping victory for Muslim fundamentalists in local elections, opposition leader Hocine Ait Ahmed called for a campaign to awaken democratic values among the Algerian people.

"We must awaken a people anaesthetised by nearly three decades of dictatorship," Ait Ahmed said in reference to one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) that ended with the June 12 elections.

He said all democrats had a duty to spread the message of a multi-party system.

The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front capitalised on widespread economic and political discontent to capture 34 per cent of the vote, double that of the FLN.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 22, (AP): Veteran Afghan politicians have embarked on a bid to forge a political solution to the 12-year-old war in their homeland and to heal deep divisions within the Muslim resistance.

"The first thing is to get these people together," one of the key negotiators said Wednesday the fourth day of talks with leaders of the seven rebel parties.

"They have no credibility among the people," said the negotiator, who asked

Canada's Arabic broadcast in limbo

Canada is getting ready to broadcast daily in Arabic to the Middle East. It is so ready in fact, that it has hired two Arabic-speaking broadcasters who have their newscopy and their feature programmes, but no airwaves to broadcast them on.

The two broadcasters were hired in February because Radio Canada International (RCI) thought it was finally going to have the budget to realise the cherished dream of providing the first and only daily link between Canada and the Middle East in Arabic. (Kuna)

Jordanian drowns in Kansas: A Jordanian man visiting his son in Kansas drowned Wednesday after falling into Lake Perry from a boat.

The victim was identified as Abghhamon Hassan Al-Louzi, 55, of Amman, Jordan. He was with his son, Zaid, 27, of Emporia, and Yasin Khalid of Topeka. He said the son reported his father fell overboard into Lake Perry, in east-central Kansas, when he tried to retrieve his hat. (AP)

Eye robbery: Eyes were robbed from a dead seven-year-old child in one of the hospitals in Egypt. Egyptian "Al Akhbar" newspaper, which reported the incident today, said that the father of the deceased told the police that his son suffered asthma attack and he took him to the Abu Al Reesh Hospital where he died. When he received the body he found that both his eyes were missing. (Kuna)

Gujral ends Baghdad visit: Indian Minister of External Affairs I.K. Gujral left Baghdad Wednesday for West Germany, concluding a two-day official visit.

During his visit to Baghdad, Gujral held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on regional and international issues in addition to issues of mutual interest. (Kuna)

Jealous husband tortures wife: A jealous Turk who suspected his wife was having an affair while he was working in Switzerland branded and mutilated her with a red-hot poker and a knife on his return home.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency reported on Wednesday that Huseyin Sahli, 37, spited his wife's drink and bound her to a bed before torturing her and cutting his initials into her forehead at her home in the Aegean Port of Izmir. (Reuters)

Rebel clash in Turkey: Turkish troops killed five separatist rebels of the Marxist Workers Party (PKK) and wounded another in a clash on Wednesday in eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said on Thursday.

One Turkish soldier was killed and a civilian village guard wounded in the clash which occurred near Poturge town in the province of Malatya, 650 km (400 miles) east of Ankara, it said. (Reuters)

Denmark may pull out troops

COPENHAGEN, June 22, (Reuters): Denmark may withdraw its 350 troops from the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus unless Greek and Turkish Cypriots make progress in talks in reunifying the divided island.

Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said.

The 2,000-strong UN force was sent to Cyprus to keep the peace between the two communities, but Ellemann-Jensen told a television interviewer on Wednesday night that its continued presence may be reducing the incentive to find a negotiated solution.

months later, the resistance has disintegrated into a collection of bickering leaders vying for power.

Washington's military assistance, which has totalled more than \$5 billion US over the past decade, could dry up this year, according to American officials in Islamabad and Washington.

The frustrated leadership decided to seek the help of about a dozen former Afghan politicians to try to put up an

alternative to Afghan President Najibullah, said Hamid Karzai, a spokesman for the resistance.

But none of the former statesmen now living in Europe and the United States were willing to talk on the record until progress had been made.

Some questioned whether a middle ground existed among the seven leaders, who have traded accusations ranging from theft to murder.

Turkey's Syriac Christians concerned

Shocking murders

MIDYAT, Turkey, June 22, (Reuters): A spate of cold-blooded killings has struck fear into Syriac Christians living among Muslims in southeastern Turkey.

Timotheos Samuel Aktas, Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch for this rugged region of mainly Muslim but secular Turkey where Kurdish rebels are active, said five members of his flock had been killed in and around Midyat since April 21.

"We are uneasy. We are fearful. Nothing like this has happened before," he told Reuters at his 1,600-year-old walled Deyrulmur Monastery perched on the top of a barren hill.

Turkish and church officials can find no clear motives for the killings, at a time when the Syriac Christian community is crumbling in its ancient heartland — mainly for political and economic reasons but also because of violence.

A Turkish official in the remotest dusty agricultural town of Midyat said he believed rebels in the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) might have been responsible for shooting dead four Christians in an effort to generate Muslim-Christian conflict.

Syriac Christian sources fear Muslim fundamentalists may have been behind the slayings, put at five by the church — a married couple and a father and son shot dead, and a man with heart problems beaten to death — in three separate attacks.

They said the victims were killed at night after

answering a knock on the door and that the same type of automatic weapon was believed to have been used in the shootings.

"For many centuries the two communities have lived in peace and mutual respect," local Governor Hayrettin Altinok told Reuters in Midyat, 1,000 km (630 miles) southeast of Ankara.

"It is possibly the PKK but we don't have any evidence ... this may be part of a policy of putting Muslims and Christians into conflict," he told Reuters, adding that two people with no apparent PKK connections were being held by police.

Syriac Christians are sceptical about the involvement of the PKK, whose six-year-old insurgency has claimed nearly 2,500 lives — mainly other Kurds and Turkish troops — in an area where most of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurdish-speakers live.

There is nothing for the PKK to do with us ... we have seen none of them," said Aktas, whose monastery near Midyat was the site of the church's patriarchate for 650 years until 1983.

Aktas is one of 18 Metropolitan bishops stretching from the United States to India tending a flock totalling some 3.5 million people, also known as Jacobite Christians.

There is no evident religious tension in Midyat, where some 2,500 of the 40,000 inhabitants are Syriac Christians, but the two communities generally live in different areas.

Former Afghan politicians search for end to 12-year-old feud

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 22, (AP): Veteran Afghan politicians have embarked on a bid to forge a political solution to the 12-year-old war in their homeland and to heal deep divisions within the Muslim resistance.

"The first thing is to get these people together," one of the key negotiators said Wednesday the fourth day of talks with leaders of the seven rebel parties.

"They have no credibility among the people," said the negotiator, who asked

not to be identified, fearing publicity would derail the sluggish talks.

Wracked by bitter internal fighting, the so-called rebel government-in-exile has come under heavy fire from its backers for squandering an early military and political advantage over Kabul's Soviet-backed government.

When more than 103,000 Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan in February 1989 after more than nine years of combat, the mujahedeen rebels were hailed as heroes. But 16

months later, the resistance has disintegrated into a collection of bickering leaders vying for power.

Washington's military assistance, which has totalled more than \$5 billion US over the past decade, could dry up this year, according to American officials in Islamabad and Washington.

The frustrated leadership decided to seek the help of about a dozen former Afghan politicians to try to put up an

alternative to Afghan President Najibullah, said Hamid Karzai, a spokesman for the resistance.

But none of the former statesmen now living in Europe and the United States were willing to talk on the record until progress had been made.

Some questioned whether a middle ground existed among the seven leaders, who have traded accusations ranging from theft to murder.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dollar static

European markets gather pace

LONDON, June 22. (Reuters) European stock markets stood firm today after a heavy overnight fall on the Tokyo exchange and the dollar was static.

In London, the stock and currency markets were preoccupied with statistics showing Britain's current account deficit narrowed markedly in May.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 key stocks closed 8.2 points higher at 2,378.5 while the pound sterling firmed by more than half a cent to \$1.7295.

Britain's goods and services trade deficit narrowed by £300 million (\$517 million) in May to £1.3 billion (\$2.24 billion) helped by higher exports and banking and tourism.

The figures were in line with the more optimistic forecasts of financial analysts.

"It's still not a good figure," one dealer said. "Also, the market has started to emphasise wage cost and inflation figures even more than trade numbers, so we won't see it going anywhere. It (the FTSE) will stay in the 2,350 to 2,400 range."

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has said he wants to bring Britain's annual current account deficit down to £15 billion (\$25.8 billion) this year from £19 million (\$32.7 billion) in 1989.

European markets were unaffected by the 392.70 point, or 1.22 per cent, fall in Tokyo's Nikkei average to 31,694.57 points - its lowest level in nearly five weeks.

The Frankfurt Stock Market continued an action-packed spell during which foreign investors returned to the bourse.

The German union fever reared its head again and infected foreigners, said one Frankfurt dealer.

Apart from losing ground against the pound the dollar closed little changed after a quiet European session.

"Volume has been very low today," one London trader said. "The only real action has been centred on the pound. Britain's current account deficit data aside the pound is still being driven by expectations that Britain will soon join the European exchange rate (ERM) currency smoothing mechanism."

"If somebody says sterling isn't going to join ERM, boy will you see a drop," said one London trader for a leading US bank.

The pound closed at 2.8985 marks, up from Thursday's 2.8902.

The dollar closed a little weaker against the West German mark at 1.6760 marks, against 1.6800 on Thursday.

Algerian minister in Iraqi oil talks

Boussena appeals to Opec to stick to quotas

KUWAIT, June 22. (UPI) Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena urged today member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to adhere to their individual quotas to help curtail production and boost oil prices.

Boussena, the current Opec president, made the remarks in a news conference held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad following his consultations with Iraqi Oil Minister Abdel Rahim Chalabi on price deterioration.

Boussena, arrived late Thursday in Baghdad on the first leg of a four-

nation tour that would also take him to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and possibly Iran.

The Opec president said that the purpose of his tour was to discuss a number of issues related to Opec particularly the sharp decline in oil prices.

He said prices had dropped sharply since Opec last month's meeting in Geneva and blamed it on a number of Opec member states which he said had been violating its Opec-decreed quotas.

The resolutions adopted at the Geneva Opec meeting in May over the assigned quotas have not been firmly

implemented yet on the part of a number of Opec member states," Boussena said in the news conference held jointly with Chalabi.

The price of oil on the world market has sharply declined by between \$4 to \$5 per barrel, Boussena said.

"This is a great loss having negative impact on all Opec member states," he said.

Boussena expressed his "deep regret" that a number of Opec member states had not publicly made commitment to stick to its Opec-decreed quotas.

The Opec member states which have not honoured their Opec-decreed quotas could still improve their position before Opec next meeting in July as these countries still have handsome oil reserves and are not experiencing major economic difficulties, Boussena said.

The situation is becoming serious particularly as the overall production of Opec exceeded 23 million barrels per day when the ceiling production is only 22 million barrels, he said.

"Opec can control production and adhere to the ceiling production if it

ever wanted to win the price battle but if it abandoned this, then there should be reason for its existence," Boussena said.

Chalabi echoed Boussena's appeal to Opec member states to stick to their individual quotas.

The Iraqi official said that his country experienced a great loss as a result of the decline in the oil prices.

In Kuwait, Boussena would hold talks with the new Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameer who replaced Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah in a major cabinet reshuffle announced Wednesday night.

Oil sources in Kuwait said that Kuwait's oil production policy was unlikely to change as a result of Sheikh Ali's transfer to the Finance Ministry.

The sources said that oil prices lost 30 per cent of its value since the start of this year because of violations of the quota system by a number of Opec member states.

On Tuesday, Boussena warned that prices could collapse if Opec member states did not adhere to the May 2 Geneva agreement on limiting production to 22.1 million barrels a day.

Perez pushes for Opec summit

No change in oil policy: Kuwait

NICOSIA, June 22. (Reuters) Kuwait's oil policy will remain the same despite a change of oil minister, a senior Kuwaiti oil official said yesterday.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, a key architect of Opec policies and oil minister for 12 years, was replaced by Rashid Al Salem Al Ameer, a professor of chemical engineering at Kuwait University, in a cabinet reshuffle.

Sheikh Ali was appointed Finance Minister in the new cabinet, 10 days after parliamentary elections.

Al Ameer, said to be in his early 40s has been a member in Kuwait's Supreme Petroleum Council, which was dissolved last month.

Meanwhile, oil prices and oil demand will rise in the 1990s, Venezuela's energy and mines minister predicted yesterday.

Minister Celestino Armas said he agreed with Opec secretary general Subroto that oil prices had hit bottom, and that prices would rise instantly if all Opec nations adhered to production quotas.

Speaking on a national television programme, Armas insisted that Opec's 13 members were working to live up to quota agreements.

Opec nations "are doing their best to meet their quotas," said Armas, adding that Opec president Sadek Boussena's trip through Gulf nations would create "better discipline" toward quota compliance.

Armas said that Venezuela had strictly adhered to its quota of 1.9 million barrels daily, a figure that makes his nation the fourth largest Opec nation.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said yesterday he would like to see an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries summit this year to discuss Opec's future policies.

Perez told a news conference that leaders from Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria had agreed to join him in sending their envoys to seek support from other Opec members in the Gulf region this summer.

A slide in world oil prices slowed on Thursday and some traders thought the market may be trying to find a floor.

Prices generally are down by more than one-third this year under the weight of excess Opec supply and bulging stocks.

The New York August futures contract for light, gasoline-rich crude similar to the US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI), advanced

on strong buying at Thursday's opening although the gains were surrendered later.

Prices for the world benchmark, North Sea Brent blend, were little changed around \$15.60 per barrel.

"It looks like the Brent market is very close to a floor, coming up to the next Opec meeting," said Peter Skeats of Gerald Energy in London.

Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is already preparing for new talks in Geneva on July 25 when its leaders promise to try again to set leakproof quotas.

"I think the market is considering finding a bottom but can you bet against the stocks?" asked Peter Gignoux, a vice president in London with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. US crude stocks are at the highest in eight years.

'It's an epoch-making development'

Japan tops US to become largest aid donor

TOKYO, June 22. (Reuters) Japan for the first time replaced the United States as the world's largest donor of official foreign aid in 1989, the Finance Ministry said today.

"It's an epoch-making development," a ministry official said.

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) payments totalled \$8.95 billion in 1989. The United States was next at \$7.66 billion and France third with \$7.46 billion, the ministry said.

Japan's 1989 ODA total, at 1.235 trillion yen, was the country's largest even in yen terms, up 5.6 per cent from a year earlier, the official said.

But it dropped 1.9 per cent in dollar terms, ministry data show, to \$8.95 billion because of yen depreciation against the dollar.

The average 1989 exchange rate was 137.96 yen to the dollar in 1989, compared with 128.15 in 1988, the ministry said.

But growth in Japanese foreign aid spending was less significant in Japan becoming the world's number one donor than a slowdown in US aid spending, the ministry official said.

He said US ODA spending declined to \$7.66 billion in 1989 from 10.14 billion in 1988.

Japan increased the value of its bilateral grants by 4.4 per cent to \$3.03 billion in 1989 from 1988 and increased loans by 6.3 per cent to 3.73 billion, ministry figures show.

Japan's loans to international institutions to be used for development purposes decreased by 19.4 per cent to \$2.18 billion in 1989 from 2.71 billion in 1988.

These loans should increase again in 1990, but the Finance Ministry official did not say by how much.

He said he was unsure whether Japan would stay at the top of the league of official foreign aid donors as money budgeted for the current year would not necessarily be spent in 1990. "But our commitment is on the right course."

Japan has increased the ratio of united loans to 85.6 per cent of total yen credits, he said. This put it ahead of the United States at 45 per cent, Britain at 38 per cent and France at 55 per cent.

In theory, the united loan borrower is free from obligation to buy goods or services from the donor country.



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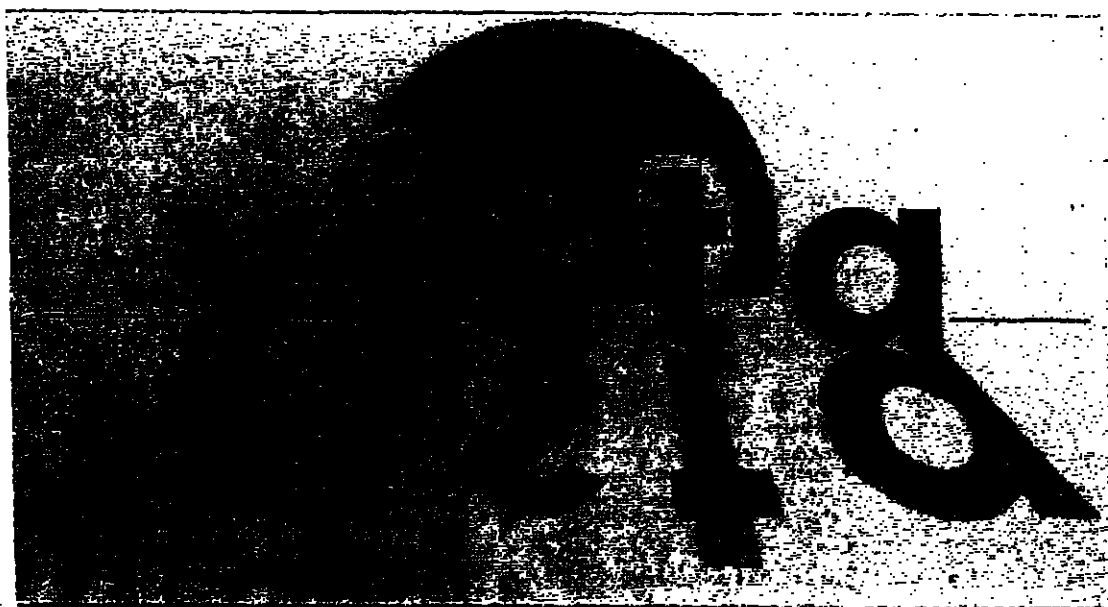
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NRI team leaves for New Delhi

ABHAY MEHTA, (above) chairman of 3rd Gulf NRI seminar committee, Vijay Kapoor, convenor seminar brochure subcommittee and some members of the organising team left for Delhi to complete the seminar arrangements well in advance.

Highly encouraging response is being received from various corporations as well as institutions to participate in the seminar. Maharashtra state has been quoted in the press to be preparing a high level delegation which would attend the seminar and also establish contacts with the NRI delegates present there. Similar teams have also been confirmed from U.P. and Haryana state governments. A high level official from Industrial Bank in India has also confirmed his participation.

All NRIs who are visiting India on a holiday can avail of this opportunity to attend the seminar and meet the high level government officials from different departments and state governments, besides the leading NRIs from various Gulf countries. The delegates can rush their registration to Kuwait India International Exchange Co. in Kuwait or Tarasinha Associates, V/31 Green Park Extension, New Delhi 110016.



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Alan Greenspan

Pace of economic growth quickens

WASHINGTON, June 22, (Reuters): US Central Bank chief Alan Greenspan dismissed fears of a recession on Thursday and said he saw no sign of a nationwide credit crunch choking off modest economic growth.

"All things considered, continued modest economic growth remains the most likely outcome, and... enough credit appears to be available to fuel this growth," Federal Reserve chairman Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee.

While acknowledging that some borrowers were having trouble getting loans, Greenspan said that reflected a justifiable sense of caution by the banks.

Administration officials, lawmakers and some private economists have grown increasingly worried in recent weeks that banks are becoming so wary about extending loans that it could throw the economy into recession.

Banks have turned cautious as their loans have come under closer scrutiny from banking regulators following a spate of real estate bankruptcies in some regions and the collapse of many savings and loan institutions, which are similar to Britain's building societies.

Administration officials have suggested that the Fed should consider easing its tight grip on credit and lowering interest rates to keep the economy going.

But Greenspan showed little sign that he was listening.

"There has not, so far at least, been a broad-based squeeze on credit," he said.

"Access to credit has not been reduced to an extent that has had a significant dampening influence on the American economy overall."

He said the Fed was aware of the possibility that a credit crunch could undermine the eight-year economic expansion, but added that had not happened so far.

Although credit has become tighter for commercial real estate, Greenspan said he saw no indications that the ordinary home buyer was having trouble getting loans.

Construction of office buildings is down from last year, but Greenspan blamed that on overbuilding in the past sparked by the ready availability of credit from savings institutions and banks.

He said that credit was tight in new England, where property prices have sagged and the economy has slowed, but that elsewhere in the country loans were available.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, June 22, (Reuters): Stocks closed sharply lower with the Nikkei average below 32,000 for the first time in nearly five weeks. A weaker yen and upward pressure on interest rates aroused bearish sentiment. The Nikkei closed down 392.70 points to 31,694.57.

SYDNEY: Shares closed firmer on thin volume dominated by trading in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries index ended 7.1 points up at 1,512.5.

HONG KONG: The Hang Seng index ended 4.23 higher at 3,250.44 after local profit-taking alternated with strong overseas buying.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed mixed on thin turnover as investors stayed away from the market amid uncertainty over the performance of Wall Street and Tokyo. The Straits Times index lost 0.65 to 1,532.92.

BOMBAY: Share prices rose sharply on heavy buying in anticipation of good results from leading companies. The Bombay index rose 14.41 points to close at an all-time high of 811.59.

FRANKFURT: West German shares were firmer at the end of an active four-day spell that saw foreign investors return to the market. The Dax index ended 9.35 points higher at 1,872.92.

ZURICH: Shares closed firmer. Dealers said rising bond prices supported sentiment. Interest focused on Jacobs Suchard after Philip Morris said it was to take over the Swiss chocolate and coffee group for \$4 billion Swiss francs. The SPI index rose 9.2 points to 1,189.3.

PARIS: Share prices eased slightly to close below opening levels, with a few heavy movers unable to spur broader interest in a generally thin market. The CAC-40 index closed 23.75 points higher at 2,031.73.

Economic reform plans under pressure

Bonn seeks to aid Gorbachev with multi-billion mark loan

FRANKFURT, June 22, (Reuters): The Bonn government, seeking Soviet agreement for unification with East Germany, said on Thursday it might back a multi-billion mark bank loan to aid Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform efforts.

A government spokesman said West Germany was considering guaranteeing a credit. A decision was expected shortly.

West German newspapers said Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank were leading a consortium to arrange a five billion mark (\$3 billion) loan.

The banks have so far declined comment.

France and West Germany have urged leading Western nations to

provide Moscow with financial aid, as Gorbachev's economic reform plans are under pressure from radicals and conservatives.

West Germany is particularly eager to help the Soviet Union in what is seen as a quid pro quo for the Kremlin's agreement to back its plan for German unification.

"West Germany believes Gorbachev must be supported," a Bonn source said.

Moscow opposes Western plans for a united Germany to be a member of

Nato. Foreign ministers from the two Germanys and the four World War Two allies will discuss plans for German unity at a meeting starting today in

East Berlin.

West German leaders say it is crucial for plans for unification that Gorbachev stay in power. Western diplomats in Bonn believe a Soviet Union without Gorbachev would be far less likely to accept membership of a united Germany in Nato.

But Gorbachev is fighting for his future in a battle which took a new twist on Wednesday when conservative standard bearer Yegor Ligachev suggested he step down as Communist Party chief.

One senior Bonn official said West Germany was not alone in offering aid to the Soviet Union. "This is an international initiative," he said.

But leading Western nations are squabbling about how best to support Gorbachev.

French President Francois Mitterrand, backed by the West Germans, wants the West to consider major aid packages to the Soviet Union at key meetings over the next three weeks.

His proposal will be aired at next week's European Economic Community summit in Dublin and again at a July meeting in Houston of leaders of the world's seven richest countries.

But the United States has hinted strongly that it does not want to participate in such a package. Britain's reaction has also been cool.

US Secretary of State James Baker, en route to East Berlin for talks on

German security issues, said, "there's got to be a significant amount of reform in the Soviet Union before any such assistance could be put to good use."

A US official said there was a "distinct possibility" Washington would not join such an aid package.

Bonn sources said it was clear that no decisions on Western aid to Moscow could be taken in Dublin. But one official added, "Bonn is making a first step."

A five-billion-mark loan to the Soviet Union would help the previously reliable debtor out of a liquidity crisis which has forced it into payment arrears with many Western companies.

According to Western estimates the deterioration of the economy has led to arrears of \$2 billion on trade-related debt.

In 1988, Moscow tapped Western capital markets and Deutsche Bank arranged a three billion mark loan that did not carry a government guarantee.

"The banks obviously want that guarantee now," one government official said.

Officials said that before the details of the credit could be formally announced, the guarantee had to be approved by Bonn's parliamentary budget committee.

Frankfurt banking sources said a credit agreement was likely to be concluded quickly.

Efforts to increase technical aid to Third World

UAE and Italy to step up trade

ABU DHABI, June 22, (Opecna): The United Arab Emirates and Italy today highlighted the need for stepping up bilateral trade, economic and oil co-operation, it has been reported here.

In signing the minutes of their joint commission's three-day meeting here, both sides agreed to work towards balancing trade which, so far, has been in Italy's favour.

Representatives from the two countries also agreed to encourage joint exhibitions, exchange visits, and curtail fraudulent practices.

Sources here said that the Italian side had expressed an interest in contributing to economic and industrial development in the UAE, particularly in the oil and gas sectors, and was also keen to secure larger supplies of crude.

Delegates agreed to give priority to proposed accords for avoiding double taxation and protecting investments. It was also agreed to intensify efforts to increase technical aid to developing countries.

In addition, they stressed the importance of technology transfer with the Italian side stating that it was particularly interested in the areas of agriculture and fisheries.

Italian Foreign Ministry undersecretary Claudio Lenoci told a press conference that he had held "constructive" talks with a number of UAE officials on boosting co-operation in several sectors.

During a meeting with UAE Economy and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan, he expressed Italy's readiness to participate in the UAE's development drive

and to provide the country with technical assistance and training facilities.

He said there was also a pressing need for establishing joint industrial ventures with the participation of Italian companies already operating in the UAE.

Lenoci also discussed expanding bilateral ties with Suhail Fares Al Mazroui, secretary general of the Supreme Petroleum Council and director general of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc).

The Italian official earlier revealed that his country's imports from the UAE had risen by over 200 per cent last year due to an increase in oil purchases. Italian exports to the Gulf country had also increased — by 37 per cent.

Italy, he said, had maintained its place as the sixth largest exporter of goods to the UAE.

Exports on the rise

UK current account gap narrows

LONDON, June 22, (Reuters): Increased exports and strong demand for banking and tourism services helped Britain cut its yawning current account deficit by £300 million (\$517 million) in May to £1.3 billion (\$2.24 billion).

The monthly figures, issued by the Central Statistical Office today, came as a welcome boost for Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major after a series of bleak data on the troubled British economy.

Although May's figures showed Britain's trade balance was still well in the red, they showed a steady improvement in the country's trade performance, helped last month by record export sales on £8.92 billion (\$15.4 billion).

On the foreign exchange market the pound firmed slightly in response to the figures, which were in line with the more optimistic forecasts from financial analysts.

The current account gap in May reflected a trade deficit of £1.5 billion (\$2.58 billion), better than April's revised £1.8 billion (\$3.1 billion) gap. The overall current account gap for April was also revised down to £1.6 billion (\$2.7 billion).

May's trade imbalance was offset by a £200 million (\$344 million) surplus in invisibles such as banking, insurance and tourism.

"The volume of exports of manufactured goods, excluding ceramics, in the three months to May was up 14 per cent on a year earlier, a very good export performance indeed," a treasury spokesman said.

But opposition Labour Party said the figures were little cause for celebration and showed a serious imbalance in Britain's economy.

The figures also showed imports rising faster than exports over the three months to the end of May but the spokesman said this was not part of a trend but an "erratic" phenomenon.

Major has said he wants to bring Britain's annual current account deficit down to £15 billion (\$25.8 billion) from £19 billion (\$32.7 billion) last year.

Other figures released today showed that the British economy was growing faster than analysts had thought. Gross domestic product, a measure of goods and services, grew by 0.7 per cent.

Analysts said continued high interest rates would probably be needed to keep the economy in check. In a speech today Major insisted that interest rates would remain high to combat inflation.

"We need to reduce these pressures. That is why we have had to maintain a tight fiscal stance with high interest rates," he told a meeting of women members of the ruling Conservative Party.

Gold loses allure

LONDON, June 22, (Reuters): Gold, long cherished as a secure and tangible investment, has lost its allure for speculators and investors in North America and Europe who have been burnt by heavy losses of Middle East selling.

"The market has become a much thinner affair... it's friendless at the moment," said Michael Spriggs, precious metals analyst with SG Warburg Securities.

"There's a general perception that gold is not worth holding on to," said mining analyst Robert Weinberg of James Capel and Co. Ltd. "One can earn a goodly return on cash."

At the Thursday morning session of the twice-daily London fix, gold was set at \$350.00 an ounce, \$10 above recent four-year lows, but about \$75 below 14-month peaks seen last February.

The metal hit an all-time high of \$850 an ounce in January 1980 after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Gold is close to 11-year lows in West German marks and Swiss francs, and in Japanese yen is only 10 per cent above 10-year lows set in February last year.

"Until the market is perceived to have bottomed out, and while interest rates stay high, it's going to be difficult to attract the private investor," said Stewart Murray, chief executive of gold fields Mineral Services Ltd.

Gold's role as a haven has changed. It has been hoarded in Brazil and Vietnam due to local economic insecurity, but elsewhere, said one analyst: "The dollar is now the beneficiary in times of uncertainty. The world is more sophisticated."

Analysts say gold enthusiasts are depressed by high interest rates, a firm US dollar, lower oil prices and a perception that global inflation is generally under control.

They are also discouraged by potentially larger Soviet sales this year to finance economic reform, possible further falls in official gold stocks, and above all the chance of more big Middle East sales.

Moscow may have increased sales in the first half of this year to make up for lower oil export earnings. Most of its hard currency comes from exports of energy products.



Budapest Stock Exchange opened on Thursday. It was closed after World War II in 1948 when the communists came to power. (Reuters wirephoto)

Budapest Stock Exchange opens

Market to give boost to reforms

BUDAPEST, Hungary, June 22, (AP): The first stock exchange in post-communist Eastern Europe opened in Budapest on Thursday after a lapse of 42 years.

Officials hope the stock market will give a boost to market-oriented reforms and envision the Budapest floor as a future centre for East European stock trading.

Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, in a telegram from West Germany where he is on an official visit, hailed the Budapest Stock Exchange as "an important institution of a market economy."

Interim president Arpad Gombocz traced the history of the stock exchange which first opened in Hungary in 1864 but was closed by the communists when they came to power in 1948.

"Until the 80's it was heresy to even suggest anything of the sort," Gombocz said, alluding to communists' perception of the stock market as the ultimate symbol of capitalism.

Hungary's communist authorities, tending towards reform, set up a market for state-guaranteed bonds in 1983.

Two years ago an embryonic stock market was created, providing a training ground for Hungarian finance experts who hope they will get a jump on other East bloc countries in establishing Budapest as a stock trading centre.

In March, a crucial act of securities and the stock exchange was implemented, providing a legal framework for the fledgling market.

However, financial experts say the stock exchange still has a long way to go before it establishes itself on the international market.

The main aim of the exchange is to achieve privatization of the country's inefficient, state-

owned enterprises, by allowing companies to issue shares to meet their capital needs.

Finance Minister Jozsef Kaber said at the opening ceremony that the establishment of a stock exchange "does not in itself solve the problem of the liberalization of the economy."

"We have much to do yet in that regard," he added.

In a recent article in the economic weekly Heti Világkondas, the stock exchange's executive president, Ilona Hardy, wrote that it will need more securities companies than the 41 so far involved.

"To operate well, there is a need for considerably more securities, especially publicly issued shares... a working infrastructure, well-trained stock-market experts and... a new type of investment-oriented attitude," she said.

"The situation in Hungary today and the present situation of the securities market are not optimal conditions for the development of a stock market, but at the same time the stock exchange can make a significant contribution to the development of the market," Hardy said.

So far the volume of business has been rather low with papers worth between 5 and 20 million forints (\$77,000-300,000) being traded at the trial exchange which met three times a week.

Eva Farago, head of the financial department of the new stock exchange, told the daily Pesti Hirlap that the Hungarian currency's lack of convertibility "impedes the work of the stock market."

"This has been counterbalanced by the legal framework provided, namely, the Hungarian National Bank guarantees that foreigners can repatriate their dividends in hard currency," Farago was quoted as saying.



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in compliance with the Rules and Regulations mentioned below:

Description	Issue No. (126)	Issue No. (127)
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3. The Provisions of these Issues shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youn) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

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LANGOLITA

LAWGOLITA

SUNDAY

- June 24
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Berenstein Bears: A cartoon series.
- 6.30 The Beachcombers: "Sunday Drive". Rick, Nick, Jessie and John view some property that Relic is trying to sell John.
- 7.00 Lords of Hoksaid: A look at animal life aspects on the region of Hoksaid.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 9.00 Matlock.
- 10.00 Body Matters: A look at cancer and materials which are suspected to be the cause of this disease such as tobacco, alcohol, and asbestos.
- 10.30 The Two of Us: "The Odd Couples". The parents of the butler pay him a visit.
- 11.00 Best-Seller: "Cause Celebre". Alma has to find marital bliss after her first husband is killed in World War I.
- 12.30 News in Brief
- 12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- MONDAY
- June 25
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Mouse Factory: A cartoon series.
- 6.30 Amazing Animals.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and international news events.
- 7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Bottle Baby". Ben seeks the help of Charles to help her alcoholic mother stop drinking.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 9.00 Around the World: variety of topics, incidents and events from all over the world.
- 9.00 The Equalizer: "Race Traitors". McCall is challenged by a group of neo-Nazis who raise troubles with coloured people in New York City.
- 10.30 Coming of Age: "Dick's Back". Dick insists to prove to his wife Gennie that he is still young and strong by playing golf.
- 11.00 A classic colour film: "Istanbul Express". Starring: Gene Barry, John Saxon, Mary Ann Mobley. An art dealer on a secret government mission boards the trans-Europe express on a journey of intrigue and danger.
- 12.30 News in Brief
- 12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- TUESDAY
- June 26
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Footar: A cartoon series.
- 6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A conversation about traditions and customs... advice in a laughable way... amusing game... A full house show.
- 7.00 Quran and Science: "The Creation of Darkness" - Part 2.
- 7.20 Your Diet: Water. Importance of water to animal life and its multi-functions.
- 7.30 Kate and Allie: "The Odd Couples". Kate moves to stay with Allie in her new house. Problems arise.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 9.00 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in Kuwait.
- 9.15 Bordertown: "A Model Citizen". A Chinese man helps the two sheriffs find a dangerous gang. He almost loses his life.
- 9.45 Horizon: "Food Irradiation". A look at food-stuffs and methods of preserving food from radiation.
- 10.30 Valerius: "Oedipus Wrecker".
- 10.30 The Saint: "The Soft-

ware Murders". Templar attends a conference on fighting crime where more than one of the attending scientists are murdered and Simon has to find the killer.

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

- June 27
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Mickey & Donald: A cartoon series.
- 6.30 Hotshotz.
- 7.00 Beyond 2000
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 8.40 Q.E.D. "Welcome to Fatcamp". A summer camp is arranged in the United States for fat teenagers where they follow a special diet and sports regimen.
- 9.30 A Man Called Hawk: "Life After Death". Differences arise between a black girl and her white boyfriend. She is found murdered and her boy friend is accused of killing her.
- 10.30 Cine Club: presented by Farouq Abdul Aziz.
- 12.30 News in Brief
- 12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

- June 28
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children.
- 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts, illusions and scientific experiments.
- 7.00 Wild America: "Cotton Tails & Kin. A look at rabbits the most found all over the world... It is hunted for its meat and fur and generates quickly....
- 7.30 The Minstrels Today: "The Trial". Herman is accused of causing harm to a man whom he



actually attempted to help.

8.00 News in English

8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.

9.00 Midnight Caller

10.00 Bill Cosby Show: "Not Everybody Loves Blues".

10.30 Just for Laughs: Scenes from British comic films.

11.00 Feature film: "The Red River". Starring James Arness, Bruce Boxleitner, Gregory Harrison. A cowboy tries to raise an orphan boy whose parents were killed by the Red Indians.

Saturday — Murder She Wrote.

12.30 News in Brief

12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

- June 29
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Popeye and Son: A cartoon series for children.
- 6.30 A Family Film
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
- 9.00 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts of Kuwait.
- 9.15 Globe TV: A Ticket to the World.
- 10.00 Weekend Programme: A weekly programme on a

variety of local topics and events.

10.30 Hooperman: Hooperman's girlfriend requests him to get rid of his dog as it bothers her.

11.00 Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates: Hans, a talented painter, is obliged to help his sick father when he meets Gilda, a wealthy young girl, whom he loves and plans to live their own way of life.

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial: Part 13, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiba Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami.
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial: featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Talli, Foad Al Shomili.
- 1.20 Songs
- 1.30 Sasavar: cartoon serial
- 2.00 News in Arabic
- 2.15 Ailab Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial: featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim.
- 2.50 Religious programme
- 3.35 AAI Sayis: Arabic play. Starring: Ahmad Katch, Tayseer Fahmi, Hadi Al Jiyar, Hassan Imam.
- 5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
- 6.00 Young Artists: presented by Mohammad Al Sheikh
- 6.30 Noor Al Islam: religious programme
- 7.30 Songs and Music
- 8.00 Weekly discussion

6.30 Take Hart: How to make colours from powders by mixing them in water....

7.00 Survival "The Mother Who Never Dies" Wild life in New Zealand, a traditional place for strange animals, birds and insects....

7.30 Out Of This World "Bring Me The Head"

8.00 News in English

8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.

9.00 Murder She Wrote: "When The Fat Lady Sings". A crime is committed while Jessica is watching a play in a theatre.

10.00 The Road to War: "The Road To The Total War". Britain and France declare war.

11.00 Feature film: "Bill". Starring Mickey Rooney. Perry, a young man from a rich family, makes acquaintance with Bill an old sick man who changed his life.

12.30 News in Brief

12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel

Channel 6/45

5.00 Sport Review

6.00 World Cup: Cameroon vs Colombia (Live)

8.10 Sport Shots

10.00 World Cup: Czechoslovakia vs Costa Rica

Please note that Kuwaiti television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Brave Star: A cartoon serial

WHAT'S ON

Social

Pakistan Arts Circle

membership campaign

June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive committee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388, 5631815, 4843578; 2414570.

Festival on Ice

June 19-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 5233000/2533000

Kapilku

July 5: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Manyag Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner. KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner, also a la carte, open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.

Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm. ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Sheraton

Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie

Thai Corner: Saturday night.

Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.

Chinese Corner: Monday night

feature.

Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS

Bistrotto: Sunday/Wednesday

— pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Messiah Beach

Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays

— Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdownah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

Beat Festival

July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring

such bands as Neighbour, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

British Council

June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harries or Mrs Lockey.

June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — Care Bears

— Making Friends; 66 minutes. Please book seats.

Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Salmiya
Hanafi Al Abbahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi

Al Hamra
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Mustafa Mutwali, Salah Qabil, Nabila

Drive-In
Al Falahen Ahham (Arabic)
Starring: Saeed Salem, Hayatim

Al Firdous
Mere Jeewan Saathi (Hindi)
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja

Fahsheel Open-air
Chunauti (Hindi)

Al Fahsheel
Nair Saab (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammooty
Al Jahra
Cry Freedom
Granada
The Survivorist
Sulabikhat
Ana Al Raadaar (Arabic)
Al Jleeb
Artham (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Impossible Kid

PRAYERS

Prayer

Fajr 3.14 am

Zuhr 11.50

Asr 3.24 pm

Maghreb 6.51

Isha 8.23

Kuwait University bids farewell

Kuwait University last week held a farewell party to honour all the staff members who are returning to their home countries after serving the university.

The celebration was organised by the University Staff Society.

The pictures show university staff obtaining their honouring prizes and some of the guests who attended the function.



Thursday — Midnight Caller

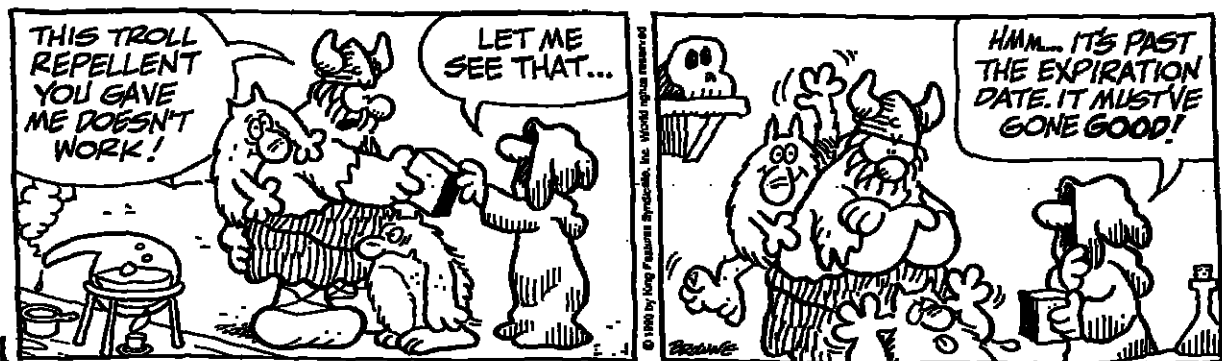
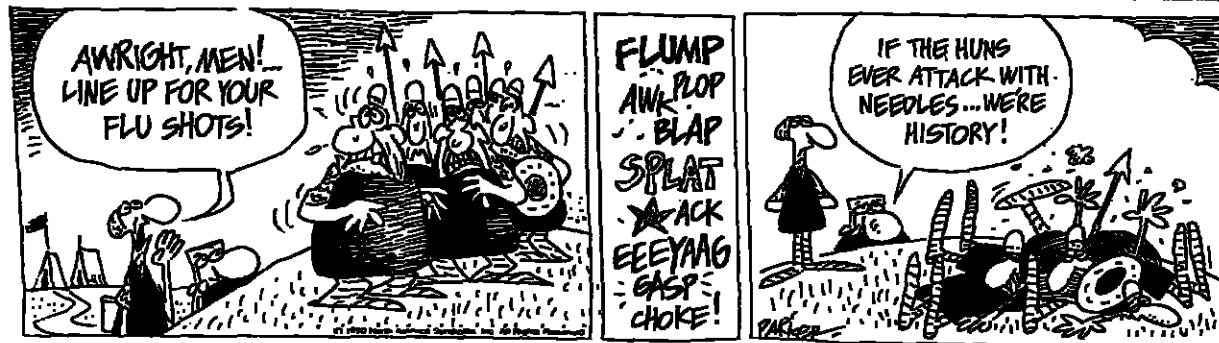
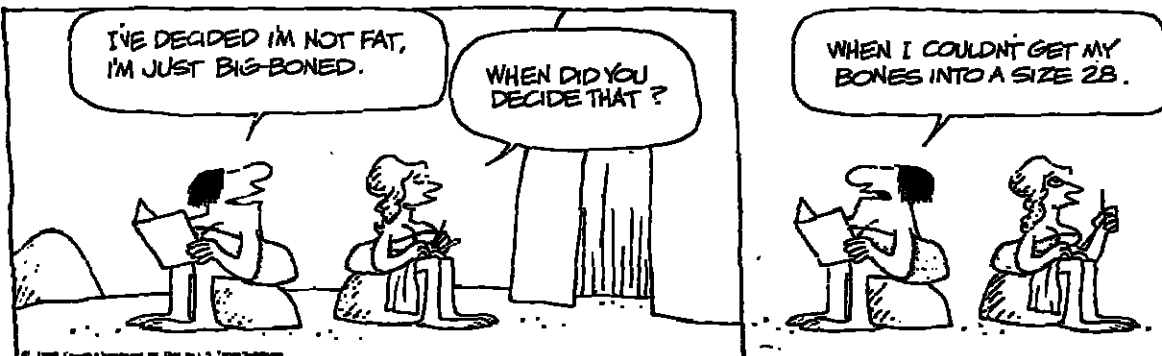
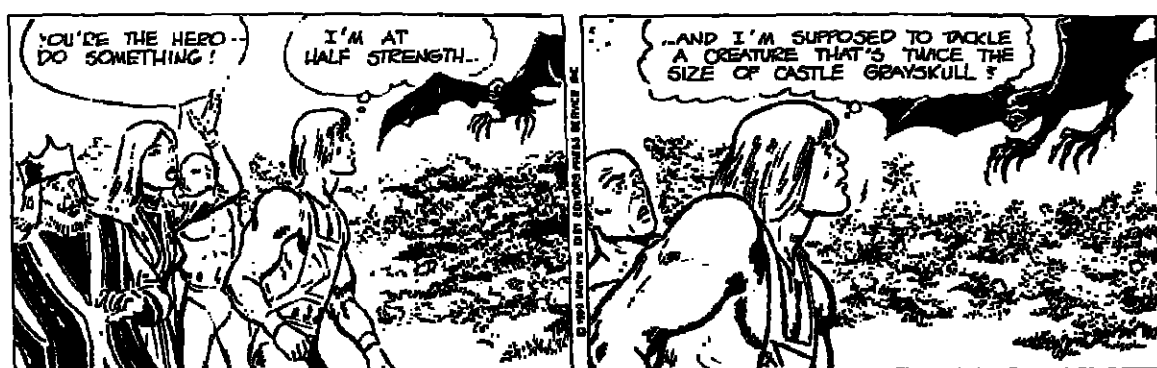
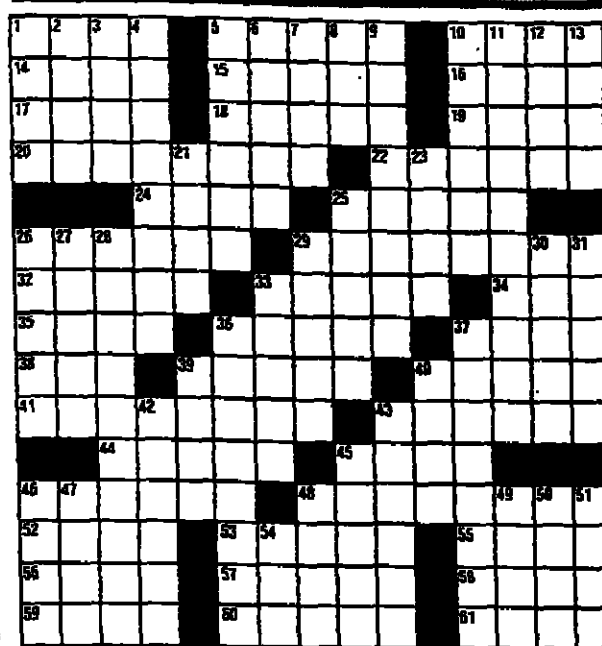


Hooperman, on Friday



Tuesday — Border Town



BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Draks**NAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dave Coverly**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Amend**BEETLE BAILEY****THE WIZARD OF ID****ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

- 1 Summer vacation site
- 5 Aspired
- 10 In the distance
- 14 Winged
- 15 Rome's coin-filled fountain
- 16 Corner
- 17 Matador's match
- 18 Gogol's "Bulba"
- 19 —kiri
- 20 Flourishes
- 22 Roman magistrate: Var.
- 24 Irish Gaelic
- 25 Fictional Lorna
- 26 Hat
- 28 Scrape
- 32 Stage whisper
- 33 French fathers
- 34 Wedding news word
- 35 Overturns
- 36 Argyles, e.g.
- 37 Demeanor
- 38 Lamprey
- 39 Eggs on
- 40 Stone: Comb. form
- 41 Whimsical humor
- 43 Orison
- 44 Certain hammers
- 45 Southeast Asian country
- 46 Prickly herb
- 48 Reprimanded
- 52 Doggie bag bits
- 53 Slip away, to
- 55 Oriental staple
- 56 Exchange premium
- 57 Turn away
- 58 English public school
- 59 Certain vets
- 60 Prophets

DOWN

- 1 Andrew Lloyd Webber hit
- 2 Baseball family
- 3 Playwright
- 4 Continues
- 5 Confirm
- 6 Sultan's decree
- 7 Millieu for French sailors
- 8 Stowe's Little
- 9 Distributes
- 10 Minerva, to
- 11 Flauto
- 12 College group
- 13 Gram or space lead-in
- 14 Bring up
- 21 Sea eagle
- 23 Legendary birds
- 25 Highlanders' gear
- 26 Estimated
- 27 Willow
- 28 Tactful
- 29 Disparage
- 30 19th cen. American inventor
- 31 Gentleman of Granada
- 33 Gushes
- 36 Primary textbooks
- 37 Uses a ruler
- 39 Sideslip
- 40 Cons. contrary
- 42 Cowboys' equipment
- 43 Partitions
- 45 Father Damien's concern
- 46 Amphibian
- 47 Hence
- 48 Deal with a situation
- 49 Ceremony
- 50 Soc. Sci. course
- 51 Fender mishap
- 54 Iacocca

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ARM POLER GIERE
BEAM OPERA AMER
AGNI MERIT LISA
CATNAPS CATENAS
ATRIPE ANELE
SIA POD AMB NED
AISTRAY VALETS
EASE ATEN
GAMIER NESTOR
ALT SSS TRA POT
CEARA LEPTA
CATALPA CATBOAT
ENIF ORGAN OSTE
DEME SLINK NEER
EDER HOSEA DDS

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF****LUCKY IS NOT ENOUGH**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 6 5 2
♥ 7 4
♦ Q 7
♣ A J 10 6

WEST
♠ 3
♥ K J 6 3 2
♦ 10 9 4 3
♣ 7 5 4

EAST
♠ A 10 9 7
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ A J 6
♣ 8 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 4
♥ A Q
♦ K 8 5 2
♣ K Q 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

We have often heard players remark that they would rather be lucky than good. It is our experience that skilled players often create their own luck.

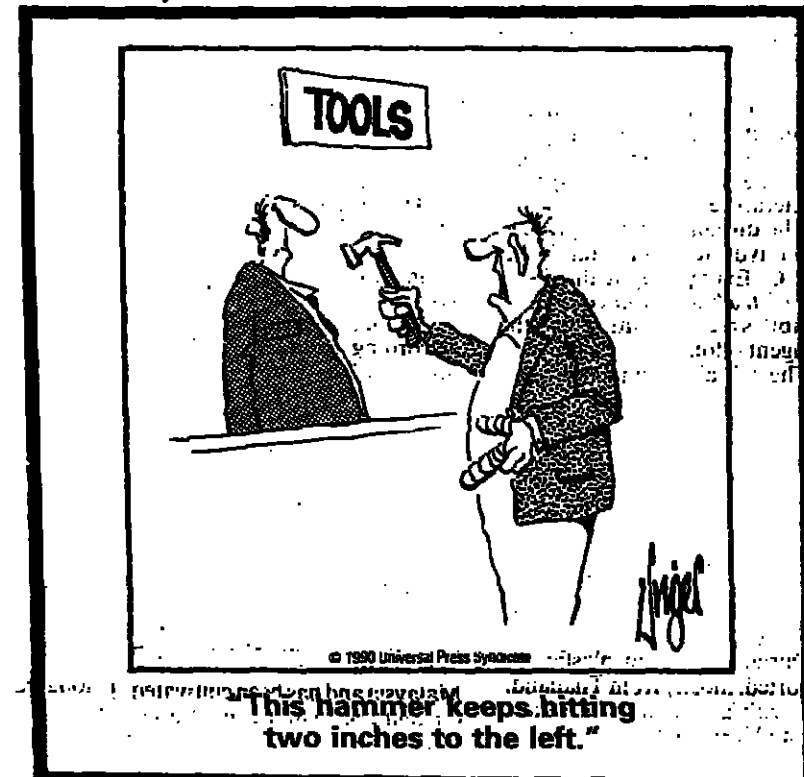
On this hand from a duplicate event, North decided that some good scores were needed if the pair was going to place overall. So North rejected the normal bid of three spades in favor of three no trump, in the hope that there would be the same number of tricks available in no trump as in the suit, which would earn a higher score by the scant margin of 10 points. In this assessment North proved correct, since there were only nine tricks to be had

at spades. But nine tricks at no trump required careful technique.

Declarer's queen won the opening heart lead, and it did not take a genius to work out that declarer could not afford to give up the lead more than once if the contract was to succeed. Obviously, there would be no trouble if spades were 3-2—declarer couldn't possibly go wrong. But what if spades were 4-1?

South worked out that no countermeasure was available if West held four spades unless East held a singleton 10 or 9. However, nine tricks could still be made if East held the spade length headed by the ace.

At trick two declarer crossed to the ten of clubs and led a low spade to the jack, which won since East could not rise with the ace without presenting declarer with the contract. Declarer then re-entered dummy with the jack of clubs and led another spade to the queen. Again East could not afford to win the ace. Even though West showed out on this trick, the contract was safe. Declarer had scored two spade tricks to go with his two heart and four club tricks, so he needed only one more trick. That was quickly established by abandoning spades in favor of leading a diamond to the queen. The king of diamonds became the ninth trick for a clear top on the board.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20

Not everything is what it seems and you must make an effort to determine the facts of the matter. A tendency to be careless must be kept under control. You should not dwell too much on the past. Be considerate.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Avoid making up your mind on the spur of the moment, deliberate. Not everything will be to your liking but for the moment you will have to accept it. Concentrate on dealing with those matters over which you have control. Be resilient.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Take extra care when on the road, either driving or walking. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 27. Make sure you count your change when shopping. You are more liable to get into an argument and should try not to. Be less snobbish.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will tend to say more than you intended so take extra care. Do accept what it inevitable instead of struggling against it. But do not accept too readily what can be changed for the better. Be fair.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Something you have been meaning to do should not be delayed any longer. Nor should you postpone a decision that will have to be taken in the end. Do not allow your personal affairs to get into a muddle. Be less obstinate.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

A little time spent clearing up will save a lot of time being spent later. Make sure you can meet your obligations. There is a lot to do, but if you get on with it, rather than thinking about it, you will manage. Be observant.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If you are planning to go on a journey do not leave preparations until the last minute. If you make a decision in too great a hurry you will come to regret. If you are invited do not stay longer than you know you are welcome. Be intrepid.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You should not try to do too many things all at once, or you might end up doing none of them properly. If you are learning do not give up but do make an additional effort and you will succeed. Avoid judging by appearances. Be sensible.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You should keep an open mind towards new ideas, but should not make changes just for the sake of the new and different. You are liable to repeat yourself, take care not to. Do not be in too much of a hurry but that does not mean being lackadaisical. Be more patient.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

A letter you have been meaning to write should not be delayed any longer. There will be a tendency to be jealous of others, try to restrain it. You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter. Be lenient.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You would do well to take just a little more time to strenuous exercise. And do try to maintain a steady weight rather than having to take drastic action later. Make sure your partner knows he is loved and wanted. Be generous.

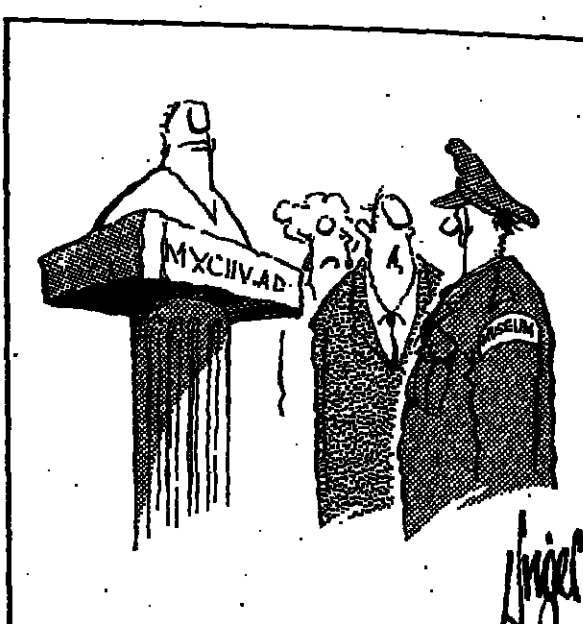


Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Only if you are more careful will you be able to avoid falling into a trap. If you wait a little longer you may well have left it too late. Do not undertake repairs unless you really know what you are doing, and do beware of electric shocks. Be resolute.



"He's so lazy. He bought himself an exercise car."



"Settle an argument. How do you pronounce his name?"

One of the world's richest and most successful novelists

Barbara Taylor Bradford: from blank wall to blockbuster

DUBLIN, June 22, (Reuters): Barbara Taylor Bradford faces a blank wall in her Manhattan apartment for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

It may take years but at the end of long, hard work she emerges with another blockbuster saga to maintain her position as one of the world's richest and most successful novelists.

She sold her first story to a children's magazine at the age of 12 for 50 pence and celebrated by buying her mother a green vase at Woolworths.

Years later, her publisher paid her an \$8 million advance after her first novel "A Woman of Substance" sold 12 million copies worldwide.

In Dublin this month to publicise her latest

book "The Women in His Life," Bradford recalled in an interview how her first four attempts at fiction never got off the ground.

"I would get halfway and then feel 'If I am bored, the reader will be bored', she said. So she re-examined her approach and came up with "A Woman of Substance."

Elegant and carefully coiffured, Bradford is a forthright and approachable figure who started out as a 16-year-old cub reporter in her native Yorkshire in northern England.

At 20, she went to London's Fleet Street, became a fashion editor, met and married American film producer Robert Bradford and moved to New York.

Four failed novels stuttered to a halt on her typewriter before she hit the jackpot with the

saga of Emma Harte, a businesswoman making it big in a man's world.

"I wanted to write a saga. I would set it in England and it would be about a woman who became powerful and a woman of substance. I looked at it on paper and thought that is a damn good title," she said.

The book was a phenomenal success and ranked among the fastest-selling novels in the world. It launched a trilogy of bestsellers and became a successful television mini-series starring Deborah Kerr.

"I was sort of lucky. It came out in 1979 at a time when women were just beginning to be independent and emancipated," she said. Novel writing is a rigid routine. "I sit at a

typing table staring at a blank wall. I have a roll of film in my head which is my imagination."

At her desk by 6.30 in the morning, she puts in a 12-hour day, breaking only to walk the dog. "It is hard work but it is wonderful when you are inspired and it is really flowing."

"Graham Greene said that character is plot. That clarifies the whole art of fiction-writing to me. It is the character of the main protagonist that shapes and animates the plot."

She explains her success saying: "I put a lot of emotion on paper, the characters are very believable and the reader gets involved and cares about them."

Her books have sold 25 million copies in English language editions alone. She is published in 32 countries and 18 languages, the latest is Serbo-Croat.

She would bridle at any suggestion that her books could be bracketed with "Heaving Bosos" romantic novels or raunchy sex sagas.

"There is not a lot of sex in them. I prefer to call them love scenes. I am really writing about people's emotions. Everyone knows what goes on in bed."

She was about to embark on a new book about a woman founding a shipping empire when she was sent three books wanting quotes from her to use in advertisements. "All of them were 'A Woman of Substance' in dif-

ferent guises," she said.

So instead she wrote "The Women in His Life" about billionaire tycoon Maximilian West. Much of it is set in the war-torn Berlin of the 1930s and 1940s.

She went to East Berlin in 1987 to research the book. "It was like being in a ghost town. Everyone walked like a robot with eyes fixed ahead. I kept saying this wall has to come down. You cannot shackle people."

"I was going to end the book where I started (in the 1930s) but then history intervened to bring it full circle. Who knew it would happen? History really played into my hands. "It ends with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall last year."

When durians fall, the sarongs go up

Bumper crop stirs passions

SINGAPORE, June 22, (AP): The durian is back in season and hawkers are thinking up special names and twisting arms to sell a bumper crop of the sweet but malodorous fruit.

Calling the spiky green globe smelly does it injustice. It stinks. And the fruit inspires one of just two responses. You love it or you leave the neighbourhood.

"Like eating ice cream in a busy public toilet," is one of the printable descriptions of the fruit.

Another says it evokes "rich brimstone musk, whispering of depravity and mouth-old eggs... durian is to fruit what limburger is to cheese and pornography is to literature."

The durian is high in protein, carbohydrates and vitamins B and C. Experts say it thrives in soil with high sulfur content — doubtless contributing to the pungent odour.

The telltale aroma now permeates sections of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. Durians ripen twice a year, in December-January and June-July.

The fruit remains largely an Asian delicacy. Early efforts to preserve and ship durians in cans failed because fermentation continued so vigorously the containers burst.

Durians sealed in plastic are

exported, mostly from Thailand. The fruit also is used in cakes, jam and ice cream.

The fruits vary widely, but many are about 20 centimetres (8 inches) long and 17 centimetres (6.7 inches) wide. Durians weigh about 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds). The outer rind bristles with tough thorns or "duri" that protect a creamy yellow-orange pulp.

The fruit is traditionally eaten raw after careful appraisal and sharp bargaining by purists who pride themselves on picking out just the right one.

That was more difficult this year thanks to the hard-sell tactics of some Singapore vendors playing their trade in the carnival atmosphere of their outdoor stalls. Others tried to take the homely durian up-market with designer labels.

"The best, the best, the very best from Malaysia," chanted one hawker with the aplomb of a determined auctioneer.

Ben Teo, manager of Seh Sen Fruits, pushed the name from the label of some expensive cognacs.

"No sounds expensive, like something with class. We want to impress people," Ben Teo said. Imported from neighbouring Malaysia, Xo boasts smoother texture and thicker pulp, Teo said.

While ordinary durians cost from 2.50 to 5 dollars (1.36 to 2.72 US dollars) each, an Xo costs eight dollars (4.35 US dollars) a kilogram.

The bigger king Xo fetches 25 dollars (13.60 US dollars) per kilo. The king has smaller seeds than the ordinary Xo and retains its smell longer, Teo said.

Wholesale prices vary widely according to freshness, weight, shape and source of the fruits.

The police warned that strong-arm tactics would not be tolerated after several shoppers complained that they were intimidated by fruit vendors. Disputes are also sparked when buyers are told to pay for durians they had opened for inspection, then turned down as inferior.

Related botanically to hibiscus, hollyhock, cotton and kapok, durian is native to Malaysia and has been cultivated for centuries. Unlike the shorter Thai plantation version, trees in Malaysia and elsewhere are too lofty to harvest and the fruit crashes to the ground when it is ripe.

Fermentation that starts the moment it drops can change the flavour perceptibly within hours. The fruit spoils within a week and few will eat durian more than three days after they fall.

Thailand is the biggest commercial grower and old Asia hands rate Thai durians as tops in consistency and flavour. The most malodorous seem to be grown in the Philippines.

Malaysian devotees regard it as a passion fruit capable of stirring deep emotions. "When the durians come down the sarongs go up," according to local legend.

US-Soviet 'Vets to Vets' group

Wheelchairs peace

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22, (Reuters): Twenty years ago American Fred Pucha fought a war against communism and 10 years later Russian Sasha Karpenko fought a war to preserve it. Now they are working together to help veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

The California stockbroker, who fought in Vietnam from 1965 to 1970, and the Soviet poet crippled during his country's intervention in Afghanistan, are part of a US-Soviet veterans' group whose latest project is making wheelchairs in a Siberian helicopter factory.

The group, Vets to Vets, which was started by a Washington state peace group and the Vietnam veterans of California, sent two American experts to the Soviet Union in May to teach people how to construct an inexpensive wheelchair from helicopter parts.

Many of the wheelchairs will go to the "Afghanists," Soviet veterans of the Afghan conflict, who have to wait up to three years to get one of their own in

the Soviet Union. The wheelchairs will be fashioned from the same metal tubing used in the helicopter gunships that strafed Afghan villages.

"We've asked that the first 50 wheelchairs be shipped to Moscow for use by Afghanists to participate in the Moscow peace marathon," said Pucha.

Some 20,000 runners are expected for the August 11 race, including 200 American veterans, some of them disabled. Ralf Hotchkiss, a paraplegic from Oakland, California, began producing the wheelchairs five years ago after watching a group of Nicaraguans build chairs from scraps of junk metal.

He and Marc Krizack, a Berkeley lawyer, left for Moscow last month to direct the wheelchair project. Hotchkiss and Krizack have already helped set up plants in 18 developing countries where wheelchairs can be built for as little as 90 dollars.

Paralysing injuries are not the only factor shared by the military veterans of the two superpowers.



Hats off!

Racegoers (from left to right) Veronica Doyle, Kate Gerhäuser, Nicola Keogh and Jenny Linden show off their hats June 20, prior to the second day of racing at Royal Ascot. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ski slopes, hunt ball and the bedroom spur French fashion

PARIS, June 22, (AP): Inspiration from the bedroom, the ski slopes and the hunt ball is sparking the French fashion scene for next fall.

It's also a nostalgic look back to the 1960s with reams of beautiful folklore prints from the likes of Yves Saint Laurent and Ungaro.

What was shown on the Paris runways is not necessarily what will appear on the racks of your friendly local store, even if you're in the thick of Manhattan or ranging around Malibu Beach.

But smart shoppers keep in mind the novelties they've seen as inspiration from this fashion capital.

Sports are currently playing big in the fashion field, as designers like Gianfranco Ferré of Dior look to the hot colours of race-course jockeys' silks.

Karl Lagerfeld is still a past master of the fitted long jacket, or redingote, short but over coldish longings — both for Chanel and under his own label.

Ferré, too, likes these sleek redingote coats, often giving them an Edwardian dash of elegance for Dior with top hats and organza bows at the neck. But the main sports inspirations are coming from the ski slopes and Tour de France bicycle race, with drawstring parkas and skin-tight shiny cycling shorts.

Shown for next winter, the shiny stretch biking

gear is already a big hit on Paris streets this summer, usually worn by the under 25 set. Older Frenchwomen, even though in top form, usually have the good sense to dress rather more conservatively than their daughters and grand-daughters, even though they do aim to be elegant and sexy.

The current active-sporting look adapted to street wear for the young comes out in short tight-fitting long pantyhose, or long stirrup stretch pants. And jackets are all-important. They may be on the puffy taffeta side, as shown by ready-to-wear designers like Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, or versions of hooded, drawstring windbreakers, seen throughout all French collections these days.

At Chanel, designer Karl Lagerfeld likes to mix up the ski-slope wear and very rich fabrics and details. His tiny minis and supply legs (alone) encased in lights with their hot-coloured, important toppers make for a youthful winter line.

Chanel-lovers, however, are also looking to the new cruise line shown for next winter here. It is very abbreviated, but full of excellent details, like beautifully cut short jackets, round Chanel-logo buttons matching the outfits, pearl chokers with

beads larger than cherries and chain-circled button-pearl earrings bigger than the ear itself. And of course, the tight shorts, or currently fashionable pedal pushers, are given the Chanel fillip of big buttons up the side.

From the bedroom come some of the late-day ideas for next fall and winter. Touches of satin and lace give discreet sexy touches to luxury ready-to-wear. Hanae Mori, the most Parisian of Japanese designers, even brought out a line of dance-hall merry widow styles, gay enough for a Toulouse-Lautrec poster.

Another byword for next winter is the enthusiastic embrace of folklore, especially by influential designers like Ungaro, Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix. The creative Lacroix never left the folklore camp. He always shows a group of prints and silks inspired by the colourful provinces, hautes-croix and rich fabrics from Byzantine and Far Eastern origin.

Paris is now unveiling clothes year-round, even between the big group shows. Recent out-of-season showings included a quiet comeback from the House of Rochas, who had kept a very low profile with perfume and accessories only after the death of

Marcel Rochas in 1955. They hired an Irishman named Peter O'Brien, who worked with Marc Bohan at Dior and at Chloe, to refurbish the house image and bring out clothes with personality.

His clothes for next winter were an exercise in subtlety, in the high-priced category. Details were haute-couture style in the full and fitted gored long skirts, satin, lace and soft cashmere fabrics.

"This is definitely understated chic," said O'Brien, who believes in autumnal colours to match the ladylike styles. Deep slate gray, mustard, burgundy, pine or brick and autumn-leaf red. Long and easy pants and very full skirts as shown for rochas may be beacons for what's to come in the next generation of fashion.

As Paris has come through the sharp, tailored looks, the sexy minis and the return to 1960s minis, it still seems floundering in what's due for the 1990s. Will the next decade of fashion be kinder and gentler to women?

As more styles, fabrics and colours are being shown every season in the rush to be commercially successful, it seems that women are more free than ever to choose gentle or tough chic.



Jagger (left) and Richards perform during their concert at the Velodrome in Marseille, southern France June 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

Right to bop the night away

Disco owners defend

ROME, June 22, (Reuters): A government clampdown on the night of Italian youngsters to bop until they drop — whether at dawn or even later — has caused uproar among disco-goers and owners.

A controversial government decree, which took effect this month, says discos and night clubs must close at two am. Those in tourist areas are allowed to stay open until four am in peak summer months.

Ministers say they are trying to stem a spate of Saturday night car accidents in which youngsters, exhausted and sometimes worse the wear for drink, have been killed on the long drive back from discotheques.

But thousands of disco owners have refused to obey the curfew, saying it would force many night spots to close and will fail to cut road deaths.

The death count on road accidents between midnight on Saturdays and five am on Sundays is nearly six times worse than other days of the week, official figures show.

Italian youngsters think nothing of driving 60 km (100 miles) or more to a fashionable night club and then returning home again at dawn.

The worst toll was on a February weekend. Twenty-three people were killed in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday, most of them students in their early 20s driving home after an evening's dancing.

Behind the decree is "the mama lobby" — 90,000 crusading, self-styled "anti-rock mothers" throughout Italy who signed a petition protesting at the number of accidents and calling for the early closure of discos.

But youngsters bopping to house music at one of Rome's trendiest discos, the Select Alien, reject the decree handed down by what they see as a nanny-state.

"The ministers are wrong. It costs an arm and a leg to get

drunk in a discotheque — it's expensive enough already just to get in," said Isabella di Lauro, a 20-year-old economics student.

Despite the decree, dancing at Alien started after midnight as usual and its doors closed at five am.

Before the decree even took effect an emergency assembly of the 7,300 members of Italy's federation of discos and night clubs voted unanimously to break the law rather than obey the curfew.

Owners of discos on the Adriatic coast near Rimini, Italy's top holiday spot for West German sun-worshippers, can already count on the support of local mayors.

"The fact we have so many discos in this area — 700 — is an important attraction for foreigners, and Italians too. Hit the discos and you hit tourism," said Nando Fabbri, communist mayor of the seaside resort of Bellaria.

He is one of seven mayors near Rimini who have pledged not to enforce the decree.

Discos close at five am in Bellaria, where the population swells from 13,000 in winter to 90,000 during the summer months.

The mayors on the Rimini coast, like disco-owners from all over Italy, say the best way to stop youngsters killing themselves on the roads is to send out more police to enforce speed limits.

Far from reducing the number of ugly accidents, the decree could raise the death toll further, said Sergio Valentini, president of the discos' federation.

"About four million people go dancing at weekends regularly. If discos which are not in tourist areas have to close at two, that'll be an incentive for people to just take the car and drive off to one that is allowed to stay open," he said.

Flamenco, tango and all things Latin stir the stolid Dutch

THE HAGUE, June 22, (Reuters): Three centuries after the Netherlands broke away from the Spanish empire, Latin music, dance and literature are enjoying an unprecedented renaissance among the usually reserved Dutch.

Posters in major Dutch cities advertise Tango and Flamenco lessons or performances and at least half a dozen professional Dutch musicians have taken to singing Latin music in Spanish.

"Eva Luna," a lyrical tale by Chilean writer Isabel Allende of an orphan making her way in the world,

was the best selling novel in the Netherlands last year.

In the eastern city of Utrecht, Flamenco is thriving. The centro Flamenco Puro, a school which opened last September in an industrial loft, has 200 students, most of them amateurs, who come weekly to dance to the fast, rhythmic Spanish music.

Flamenco lets people let go. It allows them a bit of coquetry which is something that is just not done anymore in our emancipated society," said Rini Kersten, the 35-year-old Dutchman who runs the

school.

Kersten said the Flamenco fad has spread in part due to a rise in the numbers of Dutch who have had holidays in Spain in recent years and the popularity of the opera and movie "Carmen."

"There's hardly a student who doesn't have an interest in Spain beyond Flamenco. Many of them are also learning Spanish. It becomes a sort of hobby and the longer they take lessons the more addictive it becomes," he said.

Others with a hankering for the Latin beat are

turning to the Tango.

"Tango and Flamenco are similar in that they are exact but try to create a tension between aggression and tenderness. Hardness and softness, but they are dance forms," said Wouter Brave, who teaches Tango in Amsterdam.

A Dutchman, he spent several years in Buenos Aires studying Tango before beginning to teach in 1982. He said interest in traditional Tango had blossomed in the past four years.

UNDP report: Women count, but are not counted

Women get less of everything — except suffering

LONDON: If life is tough for women in developed countries, it is tougher in the Third World. The Human Development Report published for UNDP shows that Third World women get less of everything — except suffering.

Female children in developing countries get less food, less health care and less education. In some countries, more girls die before their fifth birthday than boys. Adult women get less education, less professional training and less pay even when they work longer hours than men. In some societies women have few or no property rights.

"Many countries are obviously ignoring the high social dividends of investing in women," observes Mahbub-ul-Haq, special adviser to UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III, and principal author of the report. He points out that higher female literacy results in lower infant mortality, better family nutrition, reduced fertility and lower population growth. The report cites Bangladesh, where children of

illiterate mothers face five times higher child mortality than those of mothers with at least seven years of schooling. Nothing illustrates the magnitude of female deprivation more than statistics for maternal mortality. The risk of death for an expectant mother in some developing countries is fifty times that in industrialized nations. "No other North-South gap in human development is wider than that between maternal mortality rates," says the report, describing it as "a symbol of the neglect

of women's health in the Third World." High mortality rates have devastating social consequences. Maternal mortality rates were 1,000 or more per 100,000 live births in Somalia, Bhutan, Ghana and Congo, and were over 400 per 100,000 in 14 more countries. Most of these countries have high infant mortality rates as well.

Neglect of women's well being takes many forms and starts early, says the report. Female children are fed poorly, clothed cheaply and often not sent to school nor taken to the doctor. Families in India's rural Punjab spend more than twice as much on the medical care of male infants as on that of female infants. And spending on clothing there is 40 per cent higher for boys than for girls.

Discrimination against women is reinforced in education. Even men living in rural areas have better literacy levels than the overall literacy rate for urban women. The female literacy rate for the developing world as a whole is now three-quarters that of the male. The gap has narrowed slightly in the last decade, but much progress remains to be made," the report says.

There are 17 developing countries where twice as many boys attend secondary school as girls. In 16 countries, female primary school enrolment is less than two-thirds that of males. The true extent of discrimination against women is not revealed by official statistics. Much of the work that women do remains "invisible" in national accounting and censuses. Women typically work about 25 per cent longer hours than men. Much of their work — including household work and growing subsistence crops — is unpaid. But women's remuneration is less even when they are paid because of lower rates and because they usually wind up in low paid jobs such as agriculture and informal sectors.

Tiny terror

Reformed by the law!

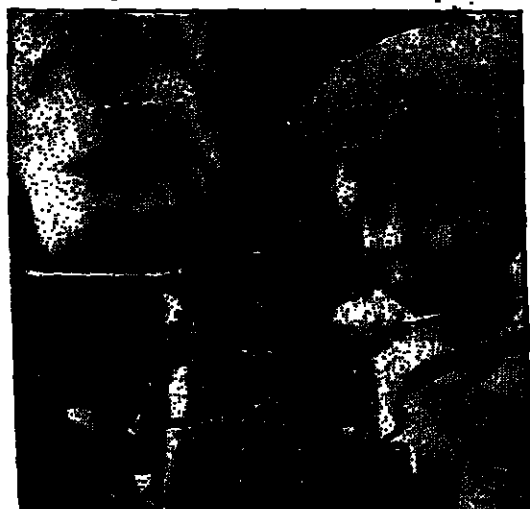
By Francis Hubbard

TINY tearaway Rickie Meadowcroft created chaos at school, tormented his little sister and almost drove his mother mad with his disobedience.

Then one day she decided she'd had enough — and called the police!

"I suppose I finally snapped," Debbie Meadowcroft told me. "I just said, 'Right, young-man — we'll get the police to sort you out!' I don't think he believed me until an officer turned up."

Now, thanks to a quick tour around prison cells and the chance to handle £1.2 million police helicopter, seven-year-old Rickie is a reformed character.



Little Rickie (right) is now a reformed character. His co-pilot for the occasion was Kevin King.

Debbie, 28, explained her problem. "He can be quite a charmer but he never shuts up from 6.30 in the morning to last thing at night. It's talk, talk, talk until I'm ready to rip my hair out. And if he doesn't want to do something, nothing you say or do can make him change his mind."

"He goes through new shoes in a week, he teases his little sister Kimberly and he wreaks havoc at school. He's been a bit of a handful since he was about three."

"A few weeks ago I heard he was being sent to see the headmaster every day for disrupting his classes. Then, as we were walking home, he started picking on Kimberly and refused to hold my hand to cross the road."

Enter Community Relations Officer Sgt Chris Writton. He paid a call to Rickie's home in Brighton, Sussex, and had a discreet word with the young offender.

He promised that if Rickie could go straight for a month, give up his peashooter habit and stop terrorising the local teacher, he would be rewarded with a special trip to see the police helicopter based at Shoreham airport.

Rickie was given extra encouragement by the offer of a guided tour round Brighton nick, followed by a slap-up meal of chips and chocolate ice-cream as the staff cheered.

Tricky Rickie didn't need to be told twice. Debbie told me: "He changed his ways virtually overnight. The thought of seeing the secrets of a police station thrilled him to bits."

At Shoreham airport, Rickie was allowed — under the watchful eye of Sgt Writton — to sit at the controls of a gleaming new Bolkow 105 helicopter. Apart from accidentally switching on the navigation lights with his foot and ripping the seat of his trousers, Rickie was on best behaviour.



Rickie Meadowcroft promised Sgt Chris Writton he would go straight for a month and was rewarded with a trip to see the police helicopter.

London's 'ins' and 'outs'

Phone snobbery

By Alexander Macleod

LONDON, (CSM): London will never be the same again. Suddenly it is a city of "ins" and "outs".

Since May 6, when British Telecom abolished the capital's "01" phone code, and replaced it with "071" for inner London and "081" for outer London, millions of lives have been altered.

Londoners feared confusion as they tried to work out who lived where, and what prefix you had to dial to get said person. Some confusion there has been, but it is nothing compared with the social shock that has come with the change.

Entire suburbs feel that at a stroke they have been relegated to the provinces. From there "80" bivouacs they gaze out at the "70s" who (and increasingly do) claim that they are a part of the "real" London.

Harold Brooks Baker, publishing editor of Burke's Peerage, says many of his clients assigned "08" codes are "shattered" by the change.

"The new rich, especially, care a lot about this sort of thing," he says. Londoners have always been snobbish about addresses and, since Alexander Graham Bell came along, about phone numbers, too. A "W1" address in the heart of the West End is still considered vastly more desirable than "W2", which classifies you as an inhabitant of Bayswater, just down the road.

Some years ago, before Telecom did away with local suburban telephone prefixes, a phone number was thought to say a lot about you. KNI 2323 put you among the better-off of Knightsbridge. A HAM prefix marked you out as a denizen of desirable Hampstead.

Other, by-now-forgotten, prefixes put you nowhere except on the outer rim of social acceptability. Now phone snobbery is back. I live in "08" London, and I don't feel much different, but "07" friends now smile tolerantly when I reveal the shameful truth.

Real estate agents have been quick to rub salt into wounded pride. If you are in "outer London", and have to dial the special prefix for inner London, the value of your house is down by as much as (STR) £200 (£3,380). If the roles are reversed, you can be certain you are a member of the "inner" elite, clustered happily together in the West End.

Telecom made the change because they were running out of "01" numbers. By splitting London up, they doubled the number of available phone lines to 10 million.

But they were naughty when they spent (STR) 30 million to tell us what was happening. They hired a well-known actress, Maureen O'Sullivan, to play the role of "Becky" (BT-get it?) in a series of TV advertisements that hammered home the social distinction between "ins" and "outs".

Telecom, who realised that they were about to be thrust into telephonic darkness, reacted angrily, but by then the damage had been done. London had been split in twain.

So had entire streets. There is one street in Highgate in north London, far from Karl Marx' grave, but quite respectable nonetheless. The houses on one side are "08" and on the other side are "07".

The values of villas opposite each other in Swains Lane now differ considerably, and "08" neighbours shuffle to the shops, not knowing whether to congratulate the "07s" for their new-found social cachet or to be envious.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Rest is best medicine for overused voice

QUESTION: I've been practising so hard for a concert that my choir is giving that I now have a sore throat, and fear that I may not be able to take part in the performance. What do "big-time" performers do in a case like this? Is there some magic spray I can use? While I know the chorus can go on without me, I would much rather be part of it if I can. Help!

ANSWER: I suppose "big-time" performers have coaches and knowledgeable physicians to help them in these circumstances, for most certainly any treatment is only going to be as good as the diagnosis. And a good diagnosis requires more of a history than you provided to me and a careful examination of your vocal chords.

If your problems seem to be in the muscles of your throat and neck, the cause may be overuse or strain due to lengthy rehearsals. However a sensation of hoarseness or pain in the throat might be the result of an infection, either viral or bacterial, that has little to do with your singing. It would also be interesting to know whether your voice has changed at this time, if it has become weaker than usual, or whether you have difficulty in reaching all the notes you normally can. The possibility of a haemorrhage in your vocal cords makes an examination a must, for that would require special attention.

Most experts would agree that rest is of prime importance in cases such as this, and that you should seek to avoid any excessive use of your voice at this time. Stay within your vocal range while singing, and use as little effort as possible during rehearsals. Breathing in cool vapour, along with increased fluid intake, will help somewhat. The use of sprays at this time may be helpful, oil of eucalyptus, menthol or other aromatic substances to help lubricate the vocal cords. Some experts feel that such solutions are irritating, and prescribe gargles instead, using plain salt or baking soda solutions.

In extreme cases, some physicians might use a corticosteroid spray to reduce inflammation, but that would depend upon an on-site examination, the extent of your problem, and just how much is at stake. For now, rest your voice as much as possible.

Question: A bump inside my eyelid has been diagnosed as a "chalazion." The doctor says I may need surgery to get rid of it. Can you please tell me what this thing is, and where it came from?

ANSWER: Within the human eyelid there exists a stiff plate of dense fibrous tissue, called the "tarsus," which helps maintain the shape and form of the lid. The tarsus contains rows of glands called "meibomian" glands, in which the chalazion may form. It occurs when the duct of the gland becomes stopped up, after an inflammation for example. In the beginning there is a slowly growing swelling of the lid that may look like a sty, because it also is hot and red, sometimes painful. After a few days, it becomes painless, but still continues to grow.

Medical news from Britain

Artificial knuckle joints

WITH hip, knee and elbow joint replacement operations for arthritis now established, surgeons are turning their attention to replacing smaller joints.

The knuckles are the most commonly affected joints in rheumatoid arthritis and for the past three years researchers at Strathclyde University's bioengineering unit in Scotland have been working to perfect an artificial replacement for them.

The knuckles provide a challenge because the wide variation in their size and shape means the joints in each finger are different. These differences have been measured and analysed to enable Dr Sandy Nicol and his Strathclyde team to create mathematical computer models of 3D bone geometry. This method was also to test the fit of proposed designs.

Dr Nicol now reports: "Having established a group of possible designs, the next stage is to test prototypes in cadaver specimens. They will be fitted and then tested for strength. A database for sizes and shapes will be established by measuring hand X-rays routinely taken in clinics in Edinburgh (Scotland)."

The UK Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Council has given the bioengineering unit £32,000 financial backing to complete development work that will lead to an artificial knuckle joint being fitted to patients for long-term clinical trials.

Dr Sandy Nicol, Bioengineering Unit, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland G1 1XQ; telephone: +44-41 552 4400; fax +44-41 552 0773.



Smart home-owner Michael Dee shows daughter Elizabeth how to work heating controls.



Dee checks the doors are locked downstairs by beaming his remote-control unit at the TV screen without stirring from his bed.

Smart houses

Talking homes come next

By Clare Pedrick

BERNARDSVILLE, New Jersey, (WNI): It's Friday evening, and the Dee family is getting ready to leave for a long weekend's vacation in the Catskill Mountains. As Marilyn Dee bundles daughters Jessica and Elizabeth into the car, husband Michael hits a button marked "Vacation Mode," and steps out of the front door into the driving seat.

The Dees' rambling clapboard house is not just pretty; it's smart too. While the family is away hiking and swimming, their home will take care of itself. That one flick of the switch will ensure that lights come on automatically on a random basis, and that every so often, a radio will blare out loud music — all to discourage burglars. The home's heating system will cut back to an energy-saving minimum — just enough to keep the plants and pets alive, and to stop the pipes from freezing up in winter.

Should a burglar manage to break in, motion detectors will alert a monitoring service, and the police will be summoned. Should the washing machine start leaking, the same system will call up a plumber.

Said company executive Michael Dee: "The whole idea is to give the house a lived-in appearance while you're gone, and (give you) complete peace of mind while you enjoy yourself on vacation. You can key into the system while you are away, too. If I suddenly remember I've left the lights on, I can call in and switch them off automatically. And if we decide to come home early, I can call in and programme the house to be ready for our return."

When they are back home from their break, the Dees' clever house settles into its normal routine, taking care of the family's every want and whim to provide a service usually associated with a retinue of servants. "It's like having a butler on hand 24 hours a day," said Dee, an executive for a New Jersey candy business. "The good thing about it, is that the butler is invisible."

Dee is one of a growing number of "smart home-owners" — householders who have invested in the very latest in technology to obtain the ultimate in home automation, a house that can think for itself.

By programming a central computer, usually kept hidden in the basement, all the home's appliances, telephones and security systems can be geared to work by themselves, acting in response to a whole range of conditions. When a visitor arrives, sensors buried in the driveway will open the front gates, switch on the outside lights and ring the doorbell to alert the home-owner. In the most sophisticated systems, the visitor's face will be

shed up on the screen as the family watches television.

Smart homes do not have to worry about sudden changes in the weather. Their house automation systems can sense if temperature and humidity are appropriate and adjust accordingly. "Outside lights can be programmed to come on at dusk and switch themselves off at dawn, or later at weekends. Swimming pools can be instructed to clean themselves, and automatic filter motors which speed up when the owner sleeps. Moisture sensors buried in the lawn can be ordered to turn the sprinklers in dry weather."

In some cases, the house will even cook dinner. "Before leaving for work, you put the roast in the oven, the bread rolls in the microwave, the vegetables on the range and something for dessert in the portable cooker," said Ken Geremia of the International Association of Home Builders (NAHB). "Then you tell them what time you want to eat, and how long each thing takes to cook, and the appliances communicate with each other so that it is all ready at the same time." Should you be held up at the office, a desk call from a push button telephone will tell the computer to delay the meal until your return.

The NAHB, which has an offshoot Smart House Research and Development Consortium, has been promoting home automation since 1985. The group is to build 5,500 "intelligent" homes throughout the US and Canada by the year 1990. Already the smart house business is booming in North America and Europe. The prices are even more advanced.

The NAHB design replaces a house's normal multiple wiring system with one single central cable, which carries power for audio, video, telephone and data signals, and allows the owner to plug every conceivable appliance, from a fax machine to a video cassette recorder, on the same socket.

In such homes, sensors can control operations using the normal wall-switch or, more conveniently, the remote controller, a touch-sensitive TV screen and, in some cases, their voices. From a distance, instructions can be changed or deleted by picking up the telephone.

"The beauty of home automation is that you can control it from anywhere," said Michael Dee. "If you are in bed, and you want to switch on a downstairs light, you can do it by using the hand-held remote controller. If you are at work, and you want to check everything is OK, or test the windows, you can do that too."

By definition, smart home-owners tend to

be high earners. Installing a system generally costs three per cent of the value of the house — around \$33,000 in the case of a \$1 million house, \$6,000 in the case of a \$200,000 home.

"At present, \$200,000 tends to be the bottom line," said Dan Kehoe, of New Jersey-based Hypertek, one of the big five home automation companies operating in the US. "Our clients tend to be very wealthy, though the type of person varies from area to area."

In the Southwest, for example California, they tend to go more for the whizz-bang features. Over here in the East people opt more for the security aspects, which give them peace of mind. Either way it's a system which takes care of their most valuable possessions — making sure their art collection isn't destroyed by a fire, for instance."

Security is a major feature of home automation. In a smart home, the energy supply is automatically switched off until it receives a request for power from a specific appliance. As a result, the risk of gas leaks is reduced, and children cannot suffer electric shocks by poking their fingers into wall sockets.

If fire breaks out, a screen will show the location of the blaze, which rooms are occupied, and indicate the safest route of escape. At the same time, the system will alert the fire brigade, sound the alarm over the stereo speakers to rouse sleeping occupants, shut down the home's ventilation, and automatically flash the outside lights to guide the emergency services to the scene.

In some houses, shock sensors will immediately indicate if a door or window has been forced, while motion detectors will set off an alarm to warn a mother that her child has strayed too close to the edge of the swimming pool. A password system locks dangerous appliances out of use and ensures that children's inquisitive fingers don't send the house into mayhem by fiddling with the programmes.

"Home automation is so simple to operate that even my five-year-old daughter can do it," Dee said. "Fortunately, my system has 16 levels of password to prevent her from having access to certain functions."

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COLLATED World Cup standings and results and goalscores after the completion of first round matches yesterday.

Standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A						
Italy	3	3	0	4	0	6
Czechs	3	2	0	1	6	3
Austria	3	1	0	2	2	2
US	3	0	0	3	2	0

Group B						
Cameroon	3	2	0	1	3	4
Romania	3	1	1	1	4	3
Argentina	3	1	1	1	3	2
Soviets	3	1	0	2	4	2

Group C						
Brazil	3	3	0	4	1	6
Costa Rica	3	2	0	1	3	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	2	2
Sweden	3	0	0	3	3	0

Group D						
W. Germany	3	2	1	0	10	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	6	5
Colombia	3	1	1	1	3	2
UAE	3	0	0	3	2	1

Group E						
Spain	3	2	1	0	5	2
Belgium	3	2	0	1	6	3
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	2	3
S. Korea	3	0	0	3	1	0

Group F						
England	3	1	2	0	2	1
Ireland	3	0	3	0	2	2
Netherlands	3	0	3	0	2	2
Egypt	3	0	2	1	1	2

Results						
Italy	1	Austria	0			
US	1	Czechs	5			
Italy	1	US	0			

Austria	0	Czechs	1			
Italy	2	Czechs	0			
Austria	2	US	1			

Group						
Argentina	0	Cameroon	1			
Soviets	0	Romania	2			

Argentina	2	Soviets	0			
Cameroon	2	Romania	1			
Argentina	1	Romania	1			

Cameroon	0	Soviets	4			
Group C						
Brazil	2	Sweden	1			

Costa Rica	1	Scotland	0			
Brazil	1	Costa Rica	0			
Sweden	1	Scotland	2			

Brazil	1	Scotland	0			
Sweden	1	Costa Rica	2			
Group D						

UAE	0	Colombia	2			
W. Germany	4	Yugoslavia	1			
Yugoslavia	1	Colombia	0			

W. Germany	5	UAE	1			
Yugoslavia	4	UAE	1			
W. Germany	1	Colombia	1			

Group E						
Belgium	2	S. Korea	0			
Uruguay	0	Spain	0			

Belgium	3	Uruguay	1			
S. Korea	1	Spain	3			
Belgium	1	Spain	2			

S. Korea	0	Uruguay	1			
Group F						
England	1	Ireland	1			

Netherlands	1	Egypt	0			
England	0	Netherlands	0			
Ireland	0	Egypt	0			

England	1	Egypt	0			
Ireland	1	Netherlands	1			

Goalscorers						
Goalscorers after the first round.						

4 - Michel (Spain)						
3 - M. Rudi Voeller (West Germany), Lothar Matthaeus (West Germany)						

2 - Marius Lacatus (Romania), Tomas Skuhravy (Czechoslovakia), Careca (Brazil), Davor Jozic (Yugoslavia), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Michael Bilek (Czechoslovakia), Jurgen Klinsmann (West Germany), Gavril Balint (Romania), Darko Pancev (Yugoslavia), Salvatore Schillaci (Italy), Mueller (Brazil)						
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1 - Francois Omam Biyik (Cameroon), Bernardo Redin (Colombia), Carlos Valderrama (Colombia), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Ivan Hasek (Czechoslovakia), Milan Luhovy (Czechoslovakia), Paul Caligiuri (US), Tomas Brodin (Sweden), Juan Cayasso (Costa Rica), Gary Lineker (England), Kevin Sheedy (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Michel de Wolf (Netherlands), Wim Kieft (Netherlands), Magdi Abdel-Ghany (Egypt), Pedro Troglio (Argentina), Jorge Burruchaga (Argentina), Giuseppe Giannini (Italy), Uwe Bein (West Germany), Khalid Ismail (United Arab Emirates), Stuart McCall (Scotland), Mo Johnston (Scotland), Glenn Strömberg (Sweden), Hwangbo Kwan (South Korea), Leo Clusters (Belgium), Enzo Seifo (Belgium), Jan Ceulemans (Belgium), Pablo Bengoechea (Uruguay), Oleg Protasov (Soviet Union), Andrei Zygmantovich (Soviet Union), Alexander Zavarov (Soviet Union), Igor Dobrovolsky (Soviet Union), Pedro Monzon (Argentina), Pierre Littbarski (West Germany), Freddy Rincon (Colombia), Safer Susic (Yugoslavia), Robert Prosinecki (Yugoslavia), Ali Thani Juma (United Arab Emirates), Gerhard Rodax (Austria), Andreas Ogris (Austria), Bruce Murray (US), Roger Flores (Costa Rica), Hernan Medford (Costa Rica), Johnny Ekstrom (Sweden), Alberto Gorzic (Spain), Patrick Vervoort (Belgium), Daniel Fonseca (Uruguay), Niall Quinn (Ireland), Ruud Gullit (Netherlands), Mark Wright (England)						
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Medford scores Costa Rica's winning goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



Muller gets the winner for Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



Leighton kneels dejectedly after Muller scores. (Reuter wirephoto)



Brazil's Careca (centre) in action. (Reuter wirephoto)

Brazil win group, Costa Rica shock Europeans

Scotland and Sweden go out of World Cup



Branco (right) and Muller of Brazil celebrate their team's goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



Almeida of Brazil flies over Scotland's David McPherson. (Reuter wirephoto)



Dunga (right) of Brazil in action against Scotland's McCall. (Reuter wirephoto)

Donadoni probably out

Key midfielder injured

ROME, June 2. (Reuter): Key midfielder Roberto Donadoni, injured against Czechoslovakia, will almost certainly miss Italy's World Cup second round match, trainer Azeglio Vicini said yesterday.

Vicini said striker Gianluca Vialli, who missed the Czechoslovakia match, was also still injured but might play in Monday's match.

Vicini said Donadoni had no swelling in the knee he twisted in a collision with Jan Stejskal, the Czechoslovak goalkeeper.

"But I am not optimistic about the chance of using him on Monday," Vicini said.

Vicini said Vialli, left out against Czechoslovakia because of a thigh injury, had still not fully recovered but he would try to train today.

Midfielder Carlo Ancelotti also seems to have recovered from a thigh injury which sidelined him against Czechoslovakia.

Vicini now has an embarrassment of riches and difficult choices to make before deciding Monday's line-up.

Vialli's injury prompted Vicini to bring in the untied strike partnership of Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio with dazzling success.

TURIN, June 22. (Reuter): Brazil bidding for a record fourth World Cup title, duly won Group C at a canter and were joined in the second round by Costa Rica, one of the surprise successes of the tournament.

Latin America's resounding triumph over Europe was complete on the final night when Scotland sunk 1-0 by a late Brazilian goal in Turin and eliminated.

In Genoa, Costa Rica came from behind to beat Sweden 2-1 and qualify for the sudden-death stage, prompting nation-wide celebrations in the small Central American republic.

The Costa Ricans, making their debut in the finals, had already beaten Scotland, whose only victory was over Sweden in what was ironically the most exciting match of group.

Though the Swedes, who lost every match, proved the biggest disappointment, Brazil were not far behind despite winning every match.

"The more we play the better we get and that is the most important thing for me," Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said after the Scotland match.

Many people would and do disagree — ranging from some of his own players, to former stars like Pele and to the millions of neutral who are normally drawn to Brazil because of their tradition of carefree, attacking soccer.

"The defensive system the current team is using simply goes against our national character," said Pele who inspired Brazil to their last World Cup win in 20 years ago.

The Brazilian players of that marvellous Mexican tournament of 1970 must shake their heads in sorrow when they watch the cautious, business-like approach of Lazaroni's squad.

So far his 3-5-2 tactics have paid off, thanks mainly to the power of Alemão in midfield, the flank running of Branco and the all too rare glimpses of the old Brazilian magic from striker Careca.

Dancing
But a record of four goals from three games against such modest opponents is unlikely to prompt dancing in the streets of Rio.

And are the tactics likely to prove more successful against the top-rate opposition that now lies in wait, starting almost certainly with holders Argentina on Sunday?

"We respect Argentina but do not fear them," Alemão said in what is probably an accurate assessment given Argentina's similarly hesitant start to the competition.

Costa Rica, under the wily guidance of Yugoslav coach Bora Milutinovic, should give any country a hard time because of goalkeeper Gabele Conejo.

It is back to Stockholm and the drawing board for Sweden, who hit a patch of bad form just at the wrong time.

"Nobody can be blamed. We just weren't good enough," said Swedish Soccer Federation chairman Lennart Johansson.

But manager Olle Nordin's job is safe. "We want him to stay on as manager and we will negotiate a new contract as soon as we get home," Johansson said.

Thousands of cheering Costa Ricans celebrated in San Jose Wednesday after their country's team beat Sweden.

"This is an historic triumph. It is the greatest our country has ever had in sports," said Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon.

Costa Rica had tried unsuccessfully to make it to World Cup games for 38 years, and although it qualified this year, it was not expected to get to the second round.

"We would have been happy with just a tie, but this victory is something great for the whole country of Costa Rica," Calderon said at a news conference before joining revelers in the streets of the capital.



Swedish Glenn Stromberg (right) tries to control the ball. Right: Sweden's Johnny Ekstrom runs over a Costa Rica defender. (Reuter wirephoto)



Flores (right) and other Costa Rican players celebrate the winning goal. (Reuter wirephoto)

Crack down hard, fast on soccer thugs

CAGLIARI, June 22. (Reuter): Cagliari's top policeman urged colleagues today to crack down hard and fast on English soccer thugs as the World Cup hooligan threat moved from Sardinia to the Italian mainland.

"The most important thing is to make this minority realise that they can't behave like they like," city police chief Emilio Pazzi said after concluding what he termed a successful two-week security operation to keep the rowdies in check.

"There was a policy of toughness from the start because if there hadn't been they would have taken hold and who knows what would have happened," he said in an interview.

England were intentionally based on Sardinia for the World Cup opening round on the grounds that their notorious supporters would be easier to control on an island.

The fans now travel to the mainland, after England qualified for the second round after their 1-0 Group F victory against Egypt on Thursday.

They will play Belgium in the central city of Bologna next Tuesday.

Police use of batons, tear gas and rifle butts against English fans at the first hint of trouble, especially before the match against the Netherlands last Saturday, drew criticism from supporters' representatives who said the tactic was indiscriminate and brutal.

Red, yellow: colours of World Cup

ROME, June 22. (Reuter): Red and yellow have been the predominant colours of the 1990 World Cup finals.

Not the blue of Italy as they wove magical patterns around largely ineffectual first phase opponents, nor the black and white of the West German machine seemingly on a collision course with the hosts in the final.

It has been a fortnight of cards — the 105 cautionary yellows and eight red dismissals, a legacy of FIFA's "get tough" order to referees before battle began. Only eight were sent off in the entire 1986 Mexico finals.

Frenchman Michel Vautrot was given the unenviable task of setting the tone for the tournament by officiating in the opening game between holders Argentina and Cameroon.

The 1-0 win for the West Africans was a real and well-documented sensation but it was achieved amid two Cameroon-sendings off and three bookings.

By yesterday, with 36 matches settled and 16 survivors from 24 starters at the sudden-death stage, the figure had spiralled to a worrying total.

Worst culprits of all were Austria. In three Group A matches they collected 10 bookings and had Peter Artner sent off before the team made an undignified exit.

Poor rivals the United States lost Eric Wynalda against Czechoslovakia and received seven cautions.

When the pair met on Tuesday Syrian referee Jamal Al Sharif really went to town, booking nine and ordering off Artner.

His actions prompted a comment from US coach Bob Gansler which typified the feelings of many other team bosses.

"Some of the cards were deserved," he said, "but there was also a very nervous gentleman in the middle who did not get a grip on the game early on."

Perhaps the harshest criticism of all has come from Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky. He claimed that Swedish referee Erik Fredriksson influenced the outcome of Argentina's 2-0 Group B win by not awarding the Russians a penalty when Diego Maradona clearly handled the ball to save a certain goal.

"There was an offence that was not seen and an official who fails to see an offence should not be a referee," he stormed.

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Coach crashes

One English fan killed

CAGLIARI, June 22. (Reuter): A 20-year-old English soccer fan was killed and at least 33 people were injured when two coaches carrying supporters to England's World Cup match against Egypt yesterday collided, police and doctors said.

British officials said 30 of the injured were English supporters.

Doctor Pietro Golino, head of Cagliari Ambulance Service, said the injured included the Italian driver of one of the buses, which collided near the Sardinian capital on the way to the stadium.

Two of the injured had broken limbs but most injuries were not serious, Golino and the British officials said.

"Virtually everyone has been discharged from hospital," British spokesman said, adding that several fans went on to the match after treatment for cuts and bruises.

The injured were taken to four hospitals in Cagliari Ambulance workers said private cars helped ferry the injured.

The crash occurred near the town of Monastir, north of Cagliari, in a convoy of three coaches bringing England fans under police escort to Sant'Elia Stadium from the northern Sardinian resort of Alghero.

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English fans donate blood

A group of

Irwin ahead

RYE, New York, June 22. (Reuters): US Open champion Hale Irwin continued to play a hot hand yesterday when he used an ace to post a five-under-par 66 that put him one shot off the lead after the first round of the Westchester Classic.

Two-way tie

ROCHESTER, New York, June 22. (Reuters): Nancy Lopez enjoyed another return to the Rochester International by posting a four-under-par 68 yesterday to share the lead with Kathy Forsberg after an eagle-filled opening round at the 6,162-yard Locust Hill Country Club course.

Chang upset

MANCHESTER, England, June 22. (Reuters): Michael Chang, last year's French Open champion, crashed out of the Manchester Open men's tennis tournament yesterday when he was beaten 7-6, 7-6 by Austrian Mark Kratzmann.

ICC Trophy

AMSTERDAM, June 22. (Reuters): The second semifinal match in the International Cricket Conference (ICC) Trophy resumes today after rain stopped play yesterday. Scores: Zimbabwe 231 for seven in 60 overs, Bangladesh 112 for five after 34.4 overs. (Winners meet the Netherlands in Saturday's final).

Campese returns

BRISBANE, Australia, June 22. (Reuters): Australia's David Campese returns for the first game at fullback in three years in Sunday's second rugby union Test against a French side infused with experience since its first Test defeat.

Drug tests

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, June 22. (Reuters): Olympic long jump bronze medalist Larry Myricks, already under suspicion after testing positive for a banned substance, has failed drug tests at two more meets, the Athletics Congress (TAC) said yesterday.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, June 22. (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday:

American League	
Chicago 4, Baltimore 3	
N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 6	
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4	
Minnesota 5, Cincinnati 3	

W-German rider

RIJKA, Yugoslavia, June 22. (Reuters): West German motorcycle rider Reinhold Roth, who topped yesterday's 250cc race in the Yugoslav Grand Prix, 250cc race, last Sunday.

Record missed

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 22. (Reuters): Romanian high jumper Sorin Matei narrowly failed with an attack on the men's world record at the Bratislava Athletics Grand Prix on Wednesday.

Tennis star

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 22. (Reuters): Swedish tennis star Mats Wilander, who has won 11 titles, has a debt of more than a million dollars.

Lendl favoured

WENTWORTH, England, June 22. (AP): Henri Leconte has joined the growing band of tennis players who feel Ivan Lendl can at last achieve his ambition of winning Wimbledon.

Mandlikova quitting

EASTBOURNE, England, June 22. (Reuters): Hana Mandlikova, former French, US and Australian Open champion, said on Wednesday she is to retire from singles tennis after this year's Wimbledon.

Hockey tourney

AMSTELVEEN, Netherlands, June 22. (Reuters): Results of the sixth day's play yesterday in a men's major hockey tournament:

Australia drew with Pakistan 4-4 (half-time 4-1). Scores: Australia - Jay Stacy, Greg Corbett, Warren Birmingham, Graham Reid, Pakistan - Farhat Hussain Khan, M. Qamar Ibrahim, Tahir Zahar, Qazi Mohib Rehman.

West Germany beat India 4-3 (half-time 2-1). Scores: West Germany - Frederick Hess, Andreas Keller, Andreas Becker (2), India - Jagdev Singh, Jagbir Singh, Mohammed Arif.

Netherlands beat Britain 1-0 (half-time 1-0). Scores: Gifs Westergaard. Standings (tabulate under matches played, won, drawn, lost, goals for-against, points):

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	12	8	7
Netherlands	4	3	0	1	9	6	6
Pakistan	4	2	1	1	11	9	5
W Germany	4	2	1	1	9	8	5
India	4	2	0	2	10	4	4
Spain	4	0	1	3	7	12	1
Britain	4	0	0	4	3	8	0

Spain beat Belgium

Uruguay avoid elimination

UDINE, June 22. (Reuters): Group E produced the World Cup's leading first round goalscorer in Spanish midfielder Michel and it was the two solid European teams - Spain and Belgium - who prevailed over South American and Asian opposition.

That outcome was predictable

but the South Americans, Uruguay, proved to be the jokers in the pack with a topsy turvy series of matches.

They threatened at the outset to cause problems, outplaying Spain in their opening match. But in the end Uruguay avoided elimination only through an injury time goal against South

Korea.

"We carry the weight of a rich past on our shoulders," explained Uruguayan manager Oscar Tabarez, whose country won the first World Cup in 1930 and again in 1950.

Favourites
"When you talk of Uruguay, you remember the two World Cups we won and consider us among the favourites. In reality, we have problems to solve and we're trying to build up a new identity."

Uruguay's immediate reward is a second round clash against hosts Italy, three times winners themselves, in the pressure cooker atmosphere of the Olympic Stadium.

The Koreans had been expected to provide the stiffest opposition Asia could muster and help create what was billed as the most closely balanced opening round group.

But, physically and technically not able to match the Europeans and South Americans, the Koreans lost all their matches fairly tamely.

"We tried to do everything we could but we need experience," said manager Lee Hoe-Taik. "It would help greatly if some of our players could get experience of playing in some of the more developed countries."

Belgium, the group's seeded team, started with a comfortable 2-0 win over South Korea and tightened their grip on the group with a 3-1 defeat of Uruguay.

But Spain, after a nervous start in which they were left off the hook by Uruguay and escaped with a goalless draw, then began to draw out some of the skills of a richly talented squad.

Hot-trick
Above all, it was Michel - real name Jose Miguel Gonzalez Martin del Campo - who turned

the tables. A brilliant hat-trick of individual goals against South Korea, and a penalty conversion against Belgium, almost single-handedly left Spain as group winners.

Defender Alberto Gorrioz secured the 2-1 victory over Belgium after Patrick Vervoort had equalised Michel's opener, but it was the imposing figure of Andoni Zubizarreta who seemed to be Spain's real guardian.

Neither Uruguay's Ruben Sosa nor Belgium's Enzo Scifo could get things right when facing Zubizarreta from the penalty spot.

Sosa had a golden chance to give Uruguay its first World Cup victory for 20 years, one that would have been well deserved. Instead, his penalty sailed over Zubizarreta's bar and Spain were left off.

Scifo, likewise, appeared uncharacteristically unsure when he stepped up to take a penalty against Zubizarreta. His shot hit the bar and Spain ran out 2-1 winners of the match which decided the top two places in the group.

The result also avenged Spain's elimination from the 1986 World Cup in Mexico at the hands of Belgium, who won that quarterfinal clash on penalties.

Uruguay's tradition of cliff-hanging reached ridiculous proportions.

Confidence

They were well into injury time in their last match when 20-year-old substitute striker Daniel Fonseca rose to head in a free kick with a confidence belying his lack of experience.

Fonseca's goal saved his own team and prevented the Koreans achieving a face-saving draw which would have matched their best World Cup result in three appearances in the finals.



Michel jumps in the air after scoring his team's first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fonseca raises his arm in jubilation after scoring for Uruguay. Right: Uruguay's Ruben Sosa heads the ball. (Reuters wirephotos)



Spain's goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta saves the ball with the help of teammate Roberto Fernandez. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cameroon set to face Colombia

NAPLES, June 22. (Reuters): Cameroon are banking on a changed line-up and another lion-hearted performance to write a fresh page of their World Cup fairy tale in tomorrow's second round clash with Colombia.

The 'Indomitable Lions', who started the tournament as 500-1 outsiders but beat holders Argentina 1-0 and Romania 2-1, hope a 4-0 drubbing by the Soviet Union in their last match has taught them a lesson.

"My players are up in the clouds. I think this defeat will bring them back down to Earth," Cameroon's Soviet-born manager Valery Nepomniachy said.

"We've had time to correct our errors and I don't think we will make the same mistakes again," forward Cyrille Makanaky said.

Tomorrow's match offers two of soccer's less vaunted teams a chance to reach the quarterfinals of the sport's most important tournament, while more fancied teams such as Brazil and Argentina and West Germany and the Netherlands are drawn against each other.

Colombia should start as favourites but Cameroon, surprise Group B winners, have already proved they can live with the best.

Both sides have plenty of natural flair and skill and use an abundance of spirit to mask other deficiencies.

Cameroon, the most unlikely second round team with 11 amateurs in their 22-man squad, have lost only one in their second appearance at the finals, this year and in 1982 in Spain.

But Colombia, also doing better than ever before in their second appearance at the finals, showed they have plenty of heart when Freddy Rincon scored deep in injury time to earn them a 1-1 draw against West Germany and third place in Group D.

They had earlier beaten the United Arab Emirates 2-0 but lost 1-0 to Yugoslavia.

Kickoff: Saturday, 6.00 pm. (Kuwait time)

ROME, June 22. (Reuters): Schedule for the second round of the World Cup finals: Rome, June 25 (kick-off 1900 GMT): Italy v Uruguay. Genoa, June 25 (1500): Ireland v Romania. Verona, June 26 (1500): Spain v Yugoslavia. Turin, June 24 (1500): Brazil v Argentina. Milan, June 24 (1900): West Germany v Netherlands. Bari, June 23 (1900): Czechoslovakia v Costa Rica. Bologna, June 26 (1900): England v Belgium. Naples, June 23 (1500): Cameroon v Colombia.

Rain restricts Test play

England 27 for one

LONDON, June 22. (Reuters): Rain reduced play to just 50 minutes on a frustrating first day in the second cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's yesterday.

England players left the field mid-way through the first session, and were 27 for one in their first innings after being put into bat.

After overnight rain, play began 15 minutes late under dark, threatening clouds with Richard Hadlee, knighted at the weekend, running on to the field ahead of his colleagues to a standing ovation.

Hadlee settled immediately on to an immaculate length, drawing an uncertain prod from England captain Graham Gooch with his second delivery only for the ball to fall a metre short of Mark Greatbatch at second slip.

But it Hadlee's opening partner Danny Morrison who drew first blood.

Morrison, bowling with genuine pace, rocketed a delivery through Mike Atherton and the Lancashire opener was bowled off the inside edge for a duck. Atherton, who scored 151 in the drawn first Test, had lasted only 11 balls.

Alec Stewart started uncertainly and was hit on the shoulder by a nasty bouncer from Morrison who retired from the attack with figures of one for five from his four overs.

Soon afterwards the rain came and settled in for the day. The umpires finally called off play 90 minutes before the scheduled close.

Scoreboard	
ENGLAND first innings	
G. Gooch not out	16
M. Atherton b Morrison	0
A. Stewart not out	3
Extras (nb-8)	8



Two fans, surrounded by empty seats, wait for the game to start. (Reuters wirephoto)

Total (for one wicket) 27
Fall of wickets: 1-3
To bat: A. Lamb, R. Smith, N. Fairbrother, J. Russell, P. DeFreitas, G. Smith, E. Hemmings, D. Malcolm.

Bowling (to date): Hadlee 5-1-20-0 (3nb), Morrison 4-1-5-1 (4nb), Stedden 1.3-0-2-0 (1nb).
New Zealand: T. Franklin, J. Wright (captain), A. Jones, M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Speiden, D. Morrison.

England cricket chiefs on Wednesday announced a switch in the traditional starting days of their county championship matches in order to help improve players' preparation for Test matches.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said from next year county matches would start on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The move will enable Test players to meet up on the Monday evening and allow an extra practice day ahead of Test matches which traditionally start on a Thursday.

"Touting sides have enjoyed a great advantage in this country by having two spare days before each Test which gives their players proper practice and even specialised coaching if necessary. Now we will be able to do the same," said England Manager Micki Stewart.

However, the change was not welcomed in some county cricket quarters.

Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said the move would upset spectators and sponsors and cost counties money.

"I have tested the water with some of our members and they don't like it. In particular, both they and sponsors are not happy about losing a Saturday as a first day of county match."

Jonathan Millnow, New Zealand's fast-medium bowler, has been ruled out of the remainder of the tour of England.

The 22-year-old broke down early in New Zealand's three-day match against Northamptonshire last Saturday and his injury was diagnosed last night as a stress fracture of the right shin.

Berger needs to atone for Canadian GP

MEXICO CITY, June 22. (Reuters): Gerhard Berger will be under extraordinary pressure to atone for his Canadian sin when he squeezes himself into the cockpit of his McLaren for Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix motor race.

The Austrian, a bit over-excited for his first win since joining the McLaren team this year, jumped the start of the Canadian Grand Prix from the front row on the grid and received a one-minute penalty.

Berger drove his Honda-powered car magnificently after the critical error. He reached the winning flag ahead of team mate Ayrton Senna - the race's official winner - and made up enough time to earn fourth place points and remain second in the drivers' championship.

But Berger's dazzling display of speed did not excuse his amateurish transgression and he must surely feel he needs a flawless drive on Mexico's City's dusty, bumpy Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

On the other side of the McLaren garage Senna, who scored a lights to flag victory here last year, is under no such pressure.

With three wins in five races Senna holds a comfortable 12-point lead over Berger in the drivers' championship.

And Senna's Ferrari-driving arch rival, Frenchman Alain Prost, already trails by 17 points and needs a good showing here if he is to mount a serious defence of his title.

No matter what happens on Sunday, however, the soft-spoken Brazilian will return to Europe top of the 1990 championship.

"I don't ever remember having that many points higher than anybody in the championship," especially early in the season," Senna said.

English county cricket scores

LONDON, June 22. (Reuters): Close of play scores on the second day of three-day English County Championship cricket matches yesterday.

At Worcester: Sussex 85 for no wicket off 40 overs (N. Leachman 42 not out) v Worcestershire.

At Gloucester: no play today. Gloucestershire 34 for two off 20 overs v Hampshire.

At Leicester: Leicestershire 320 for six declared in 102.5 overs (J. Whitaker 116, W. Benjamin 101 not out). Derbyshire 70 for no wicket off 18 overs.

At Bath: Somerset 104 for one off 45.1 overs (A. Hayhurst 44 not out, J. Cook 42 not out) v Glamorgan.

At Sheffield: Warwickshire 231 in 91.3 overs (K. Pige 49 D. Gough three for 36). Yorkshire 123 for five off 53 overs (A. Metcalfe 53).

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 222 for five off 97 overs (G. Mendis 92 not out) v Middlesex.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 180 in 57.2 overs. Surrey 303 for three off 98.5 overs (D. Ward 154 not out, R. Ali Khan 88).

Other match:
At Cambridge: Kent 329 for three declared (C. Cowdrey 102 not out, Cambridge University 57 for two).

Ashal captures Ascot Gold Cup



Chimes of Freedom, ridden by Steve Cauthen, wins one of the Ascot races. (Reuters wirephoto)

ASCOT, England, June 22. (Reuters): Ashal sprang a 14-1 surprise to win the Ascot Gold Cup horse race yesterday with Sadeem, winner for the last two years, beaten out of sight.

In testing conditions made soft by constant rain, Ashal came home four lengths clear of Tyrone Bridge (7-1) with 20-1 chance Thetimgaboubitis a length and a half away in third place.

The four-km event was an even greater trial of stamina than usual, but Ashal, trained at Newmarket by Tom Jones and ridden by Richard Hills, seemed to enjoy every moment.

The colt led after a mile (1.6 km) and it was clear turning into the straight that Ashal was the one they all had to beat.

Teamster, the 13-8 favourite, finished fourth. Sadeem (5-1), one of three runners for Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, was beaten by over a furlong (200 metres).

But the Cup remained in the family. Ashal is owned by the Sheikh Mohammed's brother Hamdan Al Maktoum.

Trainer Jones said of the horse: "He was very unlucky in running when beaten by Sadeem at Salisbury but he went on to beat the course record when winning over two miles (3.2 km) in West Germany and I knew then he was pretty quick."

Victory provided Richard Hills with the biggest success of his career to date.

"This is a lucky track for me," he said. "I've had a winner here now six years in a row and I always felt that Ashal was the best ride I'd have all week."

He added: "Conditions made it very hard. It felt like the Cheltenham Gold Cup."

Michael Stoute, trainer of Teamster, said: "No excuses. He wouldn't mind the rain. I am not quite sure if he lasted home or not."

Maradona and Ruggeri miss practice

TRIGORIA, Italy, June 22. (Reuters): Diego Maradona's ankle injury has prevented him from joining Argentina's practice sessions ahead of a probable World Cup second round clash with Brazil.

"The squad practised without Diego and without (Oscar) Ruggeri," team doctor Raul Madero said yesterday.

But he said Argentina's captain was making good progress. Maradona injured his ankle during the 1-1 draw with Romania in Naples on Monday.

"Maradona is better, he feels less pain," Madero said.

The holders finished third in Group B with three points and will clash with arch rivals Brazil in turn on Sunday for a place in the quarterfinals.

Argentina would have much preferred to win their group and stay in Maradona's adopted home town of Naples to face a third-placed team.

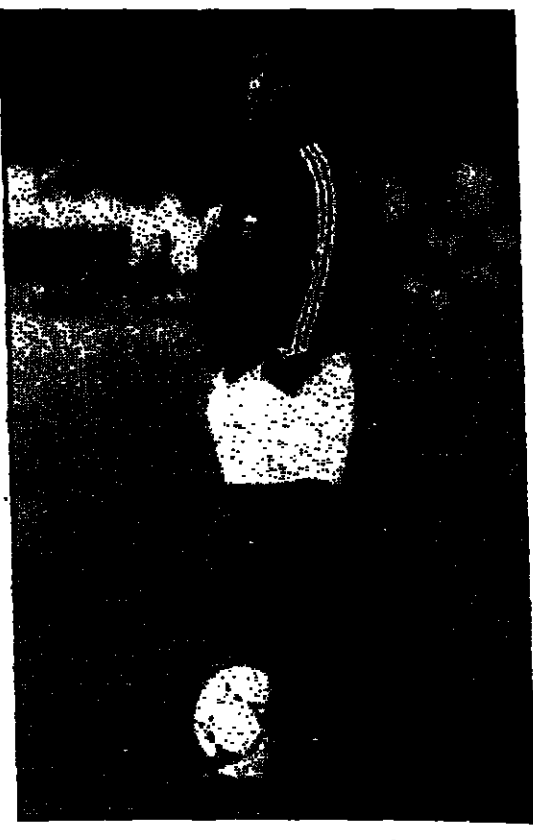
A depressed Maradona has remained in his room for much of the time since the squad's return from Naples listening to music and playing with his two small daughters.

Maradona says Brazil is stronger than Argentina, but that a "miracle will arise" and his team will defeat the Brazilians in their second-round World Cup match.

"The reality says that Brazil is stronger than Argentina," Maradona said yesterday.

"Day by day, they are superior to us, but since it is a traditional match, anything can happen," Maradona told the Associated Press. "We are inferior to Brazil, and we cannot hide that."

"But since I believe in miracles in soccer, that miracle will arise so that we can beat Brazil," the star striker said.



Maradona watches his team-mates practice. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gullit about to score his team's only goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



England's Steve Bull steps over Egypt's Rabia Yassin. (Reuter wirephoto)



Egypt's Hossem Hassan (left) tries to stop Chris Waddle. (Reuter wirephoto)



Netherlands' Frank Rijkaard and Ireland's John Aldridge fight for the ball.

England edge Egypt to move into 2nd round

Ireland, Netherlands go through after 1-1 draw



Wright (left) jubilates after scoring. Right: Egypt's Hany Ramzy (centre) cries after his team's defeat. (Reuter wirephoto)



CAGLIARI, June 22. (Reuter) England overcame Egypt's packed defence and cynical attitude to clinch a place in the knockout stages of the World Cup finals when they won their final Group F match 1-0 yesterday.

A 58th minute goal, headed in by central defender Mark Wright, broke the deadlock in a tense match marred by the North Africans' spoiling tactics attitude in pursuit of a draw.

England will meet Belgium in Bologna on Tuesday in the second round.

The goal came from one of a procession of free kicks awarded against Egypt and was taken by midfielder Paul Gascoigne on the left. He floated the ball in to the goalmouth and Wright outjumped goalkeeper Ahmed Shubair to deflect the ball down and into the net.

Two Egyptians were cautioned for time-wasting before England scored as Egypt employed every means they knew in an effort to frustrate England.

Although England were never able to produce any of the quality soccer which they had shown against the Netherlands last Saturday, they fully deserved their victory.

The Egyptians did little but attempt to spoil the game. Several of their players appeared to be quick, agile and technically adept, but the tactics employed by coach Mahmoud El Gohari were aimed at achieving nothing better than a draw from an undistinguished evening.

With Ireland holding the Netherlands to a 1-1 draw in Palermo, England's victory ensured they finished as outright winners of Group F in which every other match ended in a draw.

Egypt finished fourth and were

eliminated from the finals with the jeers of the Sant'elia Stadium's frustrated spectators ringing in their ears.

Having abandoned the sweeper system used against the Netherlands, England switched their tactics to an attacking 4-2-4 against Egypt, but were rarely able to show any of the offensive skills which they had been expected to display.

The first half was littered with stoppages and lengthy breaks for treatment to Egyptian players, many of whom rolled in agony whenever they were tackled, and it was hardly surprising that England became more and more desperate.

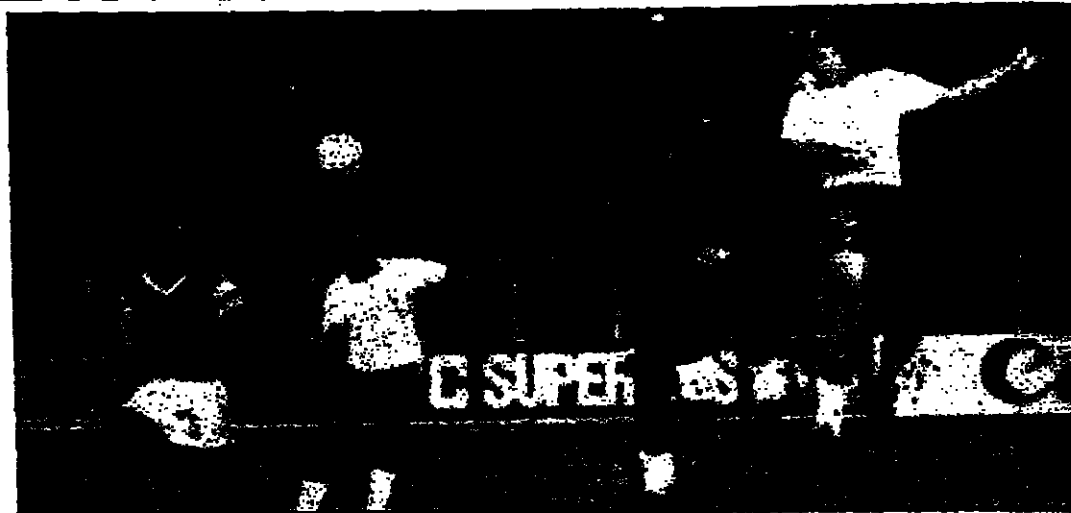
Egypt, however, knew exactly what they were doing and not only produced the first shot after 19 minutes but also went close to scoring in the final minute of the half when a long shot by Magdi Abdel-Ghani sent England's 40-year-old goalkeeper Peter Shilton diving to his right to save.

Abdel-Ghani had been cautioned six minutes earlier for time-wasting and he was followed into the referee's notebook after the interval by defender Ibrahim Hassan who dangled over a throw-in.

England played most of the progressive and inventive football to be seen in the second half and Steve Bull went close from a cross by Chris Waddle before Wright provided the decisive strike and recorded his first goal for England.

A 71st minute opportunist equaliser by striker Niall Quinn took the Irish through to the knock-out phase in their first ever World Cup.

The tall Quinn stepped in to score from six metres after Dutch goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen let a back pass from Berry van



Shubair (2nd right) is beaten by a header from Wright (right). This was the only goal of the match. (Reuter wirephoto)

Aerie squirm agonisingly from his grasp.

Ireland had trailed for over an hour after falling behind to a superb goal from Dutch captain Ruud Gullit, his first for his country since returning from a year's absence with injury.

The deadlocked Dutchman picked up a quick Ronald Koeman free-kick, exchanged passes with Wim Kieft and then surged into the penalty area to angle a thumping low drive past goalkeeper Pat Bonner.

Ireland contributed much to a fast, skilful encounter and fully deserved their equaliser which delighted their 15,000 fans.

After the game Gullit said: "I am very pleased. We're still not playing perfectly but I'm very happy with the changes we've made."

"I was very disappointed with the first two matches but now I feel really liberated. We played much better and now we can only play better still."



Irish players celebrate after Niall Quinn (centre) gets the equaliser. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lendl, Becker and Edberg: the big three

LONDON, June 22. (Reuter) Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg — it is difficult to conceive of any other player winning the men's singles title at Wimbledon this year.

The ruling triumvirate of men's tennis seem to be tightening their grip on the grass court game. They tower above the would-be pretenders.

A look at the last four finals bears this out. Between them the three rivals have filled seven out of the eight final places since 1986. The exception was 1987, when Pat Cash of Australia broke in on the party and snatched the crown in a memorable match with Lendl.

This year, the next best player appears to be John McEnroe, the 31-year-old American who hopes he can still add to the previous championships he won in 1981, 1983 and 1984.

Though he had just returned from a four-month injury-induced absence, he still battled along with the big three into the Queen's Club semifinals last week before Lendl blasted him away 6-2, 6-4.

The American described it later as a "sobering reality" and underlined his recognition of the gap that exists when he said: "Maybe I'll be better in a couple of months. Right now I feel there is a lot of hard work to be done."

Lendl, meanwhile, enters the Wimbledon fray as the top seed and the favourite after he went on from beating McEnroe to demolish Becker 6-3, 6-2 in the Queen's Club final.

The US-based Czechoslovak, who has never won Wimbledon, has never looked better on grass, a surface which was anathema to him for so many years.

Dubai to host squash event

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, June 22. (AP) The first-ever squash World Cup will be held in Dubai early next year, it was announced today.

Jehangir Khan of Pakistan, world champion who is referred to as the world's most successful squash player, told a press conference that the \$10,000 championship was the richest in the world.

The second richest would be the \$102,000 event previously held in Cardiff, Wales.

In all, 32 of the world's best squash players will be taking part in the event, slated for Jan 28-Feb 4, 1991, Jehangir said.

Defeat mourned: Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories yesterday mourned Egypt's elimination from the World Cup and the collapse of their hopes for Arab soccer glory. "Everybody here is very disappointed," a Gaza City resident said after Egypt's 1-0 defeat of England on Thursday night, televised live by Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian stations. "People were yelling and screaming during the game. Thousands were watching because Egypt was defying strong teams," he said.

Baggio's goal best: Italian Roberto Baggio's glorious individual goal against Czechoslovakia was the best of the World Cup, according to former Brazilian international Pele. Pele, widely considered the best player of all time, said: "Baggio's goal was the most beautiful of the World Cup." His opinion, shared by millions of soccer watchers, was echoed by Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni who said: "What a goal Baggio's was the finest goal seen in the World Cup so far."

Football embassy: England's World Cup "football embassy" is not like most diplomatic missions and its visitors would not go down well at an ambassador's reception. But dozens of forlorn and dejected England fans have found help and advice at the chaotic offices of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), tucked down a tiny backstreet in Cagliari.



Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti sits in between Spain's King Juan Carlos and his wife Queen Sophia during the Spain-Belgium match on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Swedish team: Sweden's soccer team came home on Thursday to a chorus of derision over their poor showing in the World Cup finals and calls for team manager Olof Nordin's resignation. "Fiasco" and "Resign Nordin" screamed the headlines in Swedish newspapers which greeted the Swedish squad at Stockholm's Arland Airport.

100th yellow card: Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Paz gained the dubious distinction of being the 100th player to be shown a yellow card at the World Cup on Thursday. Paz was booked for a foul one minute before halftime in the 1-0 win over South Korea which took Uruguay into the last 16.

Walker injured: Central defender Des Walker joined the injury list yesterday with a calf injury from the 1-0 win over Egypt which earned England a second round place in the World Cup. England manager Bobby Robson said it was too early to say whether Walker would play against Belgium in Bologna on Tuesday and said captain Bryan Robson also remained doubtful despite the attentions of a faith healer to his injured heel.

\$13 million striker: The World Cup has made fabulously rich Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli a little happier already about the \$13 million he shelled out for striker Roberto Baggio. Agnelli, Italy's top industrialist, owns Turin club Juventus, who paid the world's highest transfer fee to buy Baggio from Fiorentina shortly before the World Cup.

War of words: Jack Charlton, the Englishman revered as an honorary Irishman for guiding Ireland to the World Cup finals, has sparked a war of words over a row with a sports columnist. Charlton stormed out of a press conference in Palermo on Wednesday after refusing to answer questions from columnist and former player Eamonn Dunphy, who condemned the team's draw against Egypt as "a disgrace to the nation." Back in Ireland, the national union of journalists sprang to Dunphy's defence, radio talk-in lines were buzzing and one newspaper launched a who is right poll.

Today's matches

1. Cameroon vs Colombia — 6 pm (Kuwait time).
 2. Czechoslovakia vs Costa Rica — 10 pm (Kuwait time).
- Both the matches will be telecast live by KTV.

S. Korean squad: South Korea's soccer manager, hurt by a storm of criticism at home, said he did not have a free choice in picking his squad and they were not ready for the World Cup because of inadequate training facilities. Lee Hoo-Taik said: "I did not choose these 22 players. Most of them were imposed on me." He did not elaborate in remarks reported by the Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.

Haughey jubilant: Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, jubilant over Ireland reaching the second round of the World Cup, will have to miss their next match — as he is hosting a European Economic Community summit. After Ireland drew 1-1 with the Netherlands, he told reporters on Friday he was "very proud and elated and relieved." Ireland reveres the team's manager, Englishman Jack Charlton, as an honorary Irishman and Haughey was lavish in praise of him.

Players eyed: Italian club Torino, promoted to the First Division next season, are interested in signing England World Cup striker Gary Lineker. Italian sports papers said on Wednesday, Torino were also reported to have reached agreement with Spanish midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez, who said last month he was leaving champions Real Madrid.

Alcohol ban: A magistrate on Thursday overruled Italy's World Cup alcohol ban, saying it was

unconstitutional, and gave a restaurant permission to serve wine. Magistrate Francesco Crisafulli made his ruling in a legal case brought by a the gourmet organisation Arci-Gola, which had organised a dinner and wine tasting evening near Udine on Thursday night.

Charges quashed: A Sardinian magistrate on Thursday quashed charges of brawling against 23 English World Cup fans, saying they were attacked by local people. Magistrate Pier Carlo Di Gennaro ordered the immediate release of all 23 English and a Sardinian arrested on Tuesday night after two hours of clashes in the northeastern port of Olbia. The two sides pelted each other and police with rocks and bottles.

Female audience: Italy's passion for the World Cup is shared by more than 10 million women and most of the country's children are being allowed to stay up late to watch matches, according to television ratings. Viewings figures released by the state television network Rai showed nearly 83 per cent of children aged from four to 14 watched Italy beat Czechoslovakia on Wednesday. The match ended just before 11 pm.

Extra goalkeeper: Angel Comizzo of Argentine champions River Plate has joined his country's World Cup squad to fill the gap left by the injured Nery Pumpido. Comizzo flew in from Buenos Aires on Thursday to join the squad at

Argentina's retreat outside Rome. "I didn't ask the coach for the first team place and he didn't offer it to me," Comizzo said before his first practice with the squad.

Austrian deported: Italy has deported a 32-year-old Austrian after he was convicted of trying to enter a World Cup match carrying a pistol. The court handed Rainer Ullrich a suspended two-year prison sentence on Wednesday, officials said.

S. Korean player: South Korean forward Lee Tae-Ho played for his country in the World Cup despite having only one eye. Lee, 29, thought his soccer career was over

two years ago when he lost his left eye after a collision with another player who was trying a scissor kick as he went for a header. The opponent's boot stuns permanently damaged Lee's left retina.

Italian players: Italian coach Azeglio Vicini yesterday named forwards Roberto Baggio and Salvatore Schillaci to start the second-round match against Uruguay on Monday. "If Baggio and Schillaci come through our next three practices in good shape, then they will both play," Vicini told reporters at the Italian training camp.

British minister: British Minister of Sport Colin Moynihan will arrive to keep English fans from misbehaving. World Cup organisers said today. Moynihan will meet with local government officials and visit the Dallara stadium, where England will play Belgium in a second-round match on Tuesday.

Romanian players: Romanian defender George Popescu has attracted interest from a number of teams with his impressive World Cup performances. Corriere dello Sport reported today. Among the teams interested in signing Popescu are FC Cologne of West Germany and Italian First Division teams Lecce and Bari, the Italian sports daily said. Goalkeeper Silviu Lung is set to join Spanish Second Division team Real Burgos.



A Swedish fan is escorted from the field during Wednesday Cup match.

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